

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 1976

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

copy of such Writ is enclosed. The defamatory material was contained in a programme exhibited by the Australian Broadcasting Commission on the nights of the 7th and 8th September, 1976 in the ABC segment entitled "This Day Tonight". The report of the ABC related to Police action undertaken at Cedar Bay, North Queensland.

"As this matter was raised in Parliament yesterday, we deemed it advisable to advise you of the issue of this Writ so that from here on the proper Parliamentary procedure can be followed.

"Yours faithfully,

"J. S. Gilshenan & Luton."

That matter is therefore sub judice.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. LAND SWINDLES

Mr. Burns, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the newspaper article of 25 July headlined "Land swindles are netting \$ millions"?

(2) Are weaknesses in the State's land property laws allowing criminals to swindle people out of millions of dollars in the sale of unregistered land and will legislation making it illegal for anyone to sell land without title not be introduced for two years?

(3) Have detectives from the New South Wales Fraud Squad visited Brisbane to investigate complaints from New South Wales residents who paid large deposits on land in three Queensland centres and then found that there were no title deeds for their blocks?

(4) Is the Queensland Corporate Affairs Commission inquiring into complaints by at least 60 people who claim that they have been swindled by the same operator, did the operator go bankrupt before action could be taken against him and, if so, who was the operator?

(5) How many land developers have been investigated as a result of complaints lodged with the Corporate Affairs Commission within the last three years and what were the results of the investigations?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) The existing provisions of the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971-1975 provide that all moneys received in relation to the sale of unregistered land shall be paid into a trust account and retained until separate titles are available. Amending legislation now exists prohibiting the sale of land that is subdivided into more than five allotments before separate certificates of title are available. This legislation will come into effect on 1 April 1978.

THURSDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 1976

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. J. E. H. Houghton, Redcliffe) read prayers and took the chair at 11 a.m.

SUB JUDICE MATTER

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that I have received the following letter from J. S. Gilshenan & Luton, solicitors, of Brisbane, dated 9 September 1976—

"The Honourable J. E. Houghton,

"Parliament House,

"George Street,

"Brisbane, Q. 4000.

"Dear Mr. Houghton,

"We are the solicitors for Raymond George Marchant, a Sergeant Second Class of Police, presently stationed at Cooktown, North Queensland. We have this morning issued out of the Registry of the Supreme Court of Queensland at Brisbane a Writ on our client's behalf seeking damages for defamation and a

(3) By arrangement, members of the New South Wales Fraud Squad visited the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, Brisbane, and were given information and documentation by the commissioner regarding seven complaints investigated by the commissioner relating to contracts for the sale of unregistered land in Queensland entered into in New South Wales by residents of New South Wales.

(4) No. However, of the nine complaints actually received, seven were handed to the New South Wales Fraud Squad. Investigations of the two other matters have been completed and reports on these are presently being prepared and will be forwarded to the Commissioner of Police for his attention. Investigations into the activities revealed another 61 potential complaints involving all New South Wales people and, although they have been contacted, they have not demonstrated any interest to date.

The principal operator associated with the information handed to the New South Wales Fraud Squad was shown as Robert Wilkie. A search made at the Brisbane Registry of the Bankruptcy Court did not reveal a name of Robert Wilkie as a bankrupt.

(5) In the last three years, 51 investigations have been undertaken relating to land developers. Of that number, three matters have been forwarded to the police, a further two are presently before the court awaiting hearing dates, five are still under investigation, one was dismissed by the court, one complaint was withdrawn on the grounds of insufficient evidence, no complaints were laid in another three matters for lack of evidence, 23 were found to contain no breaches of the Acts administered by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs and 13 complaints were subsequently withdrawn by members of the public because of satisfactory arrangements made between the parties, resulting from inquiries undertaken into those complaints by the commissioner.

2. AERIAL AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mr. Burns, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

(1) What is the cause of the continuing delays in deciding whether a State-wide aerial ambulance service should be set up?

(2) Was a subcommittee formed to examine the setting up of an aerial ambulance service after the annual ambulance conference in October 1975 and, if so, how many times did it meet, and what did it recommend?

(3) What centres already operate local aerial ambulance services?

(4) Are aerial ambulances State or locally controlled in other States?

(5) What local committees have applied to start new aerial ambulance services and when was each application lodged?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) At the State conference of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade, held 7 October 1975, it was resolved—

“That the conference commends the conception of there being a State-wide Aerial Ambulance Service and recommends that the State Council examine the feasibility of such a scheme, including—

- (i) respective areas of operation
- (ii) degree of public participation
- (iii) all aspects of financial considerations including the extent of Government interest and aid.”

State Council in accordance with this recommendation established a subcommittee for the purpose of the investigation, and also decided that the subcommittee seek appropriate advice from outside sources.

I am advised that for various reasons, including the need to obtain information and data from other States of the Commonwealth and, later, the holding of the triennial elections wherein one of the members of the subcommittee failed to gain re-election, and the subcommittee had to be reformed, no meeting of the subcommittee has been held to date. However, the first meeting of the new subcommittee is set down for 16 September 1976, and I understand that representatives of the Bundaberg Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade have been invited to attend.

The honourable member will appreciate that as far as my department is concerned there has been no undue delay and, when the State Council submits its recommendations, the whole matter of aerial ambulance services in the State will receive earnest consideration.

(3) Aerial ambulances are operated by the Cairns and Rockhampton Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigades.

(4) I am informed that in New South Wales an aerial ambulance service is operated by the State, and that in Victoria an air ambulance operates as part of the Victorian Ambulance Service. In South Australia and West Australia, I understand that air ambulance services are operated by the St. John Ambulance Service, which runs ambulance services in these States.

(5) The Bundaberg Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade applied to start an aerial ambulance service in May last year. No other Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade has applied.

3. BUILDING ON FLOOD-PRONE LAND

Mr. Burns, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

(1) What criteria will a council, such as the Moreton Shire Council, have to take into consideration when drawing up restrictive by-laws to cover building on land

flooded in 1974, which it is authorised to do by the Local Government Department, as reported in the "Sunday Mail" of 29 August?

(2) Will all land flooded in 1974 be covered by the restrictions?

(3) Will landholders be able to take legal action against land developers who sold flood-prone land if the council bans construction on the site and, if not, will he consider amending the relevant laws to allow such action?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) The Moreton Shire Council had given approval to subdivide land within the Shire of Moreton, which land was subsequently inundated by the floods of January 1974. A number of other local authorities had given approval for the subdivision of land which was affected by these floods.

Subsequent to the floods, the council decided that it would be in the public interest and in the best interests of owners of the lands concerned that the erection of buildings thereon should be controlled so as to prevent or minimise damage that might occur by future floods. Accordingly, the council made a by-law, which was approved by the Governor in Council and gazetted on 22 March 1975, empowering it to declare floodable land. Under the by-law, the council has called upon the owners of lands inundated by the January 1974 floods to show cause why their lands should not be so declared.

In terms of the by-law, the surface of the lowest floor and all inlets to a sewerage system of a building erected on land declared to be floodable land must be constructed to a level approved by the council's engineer but in any case not lower than 300 millimetres above the maximum flood level. Measures must also be taken to prevent the retention of flood waters and flood debris beneath the building.

(3) As I have stated, it is not the intention of the council to prohibit the erection of buildings on land inundated by the January 1974 floods but, in the public interest, to control the erection of buildings so as to prevent or minimise damage that might occur from future floods.

4. ELECTRIC BLANKETS

Mr. Dean, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

(1) Has his department investigated newspaper reports attributed to the Australian Consumers' Association that 11 out of 28 double-bed blankets failed a basic electrical safety test and that two of the most expensive blankets tested were found to be potential fire risks?

(2) Are all brands of electric blankets sold in Queensland subjected to Government tests?

(3) Are any of the blankets mentioned by A.C.A. sold in Queensland and, if so, what action has been taken to protect the public?

Answers:—

(1) Yes. Not only the Press reports but the report by the Australian Consumers' Association has been the subject of full investigation.

(2) Electric blankets are prescribed electrical articles which require the approval of one of the statutory approvals authorities in Australia.

(3) Yes. The investigation revealed that many of the claims of the Australian Consumers' Association were totally unfounded and were in fact due to faulty test procedures and lack of knowledge of the relevant Australian standard. Some minor departures which did not involve safety factors were found and each was followed up by the appropriate approvals authority.

5. MEDIBANK LEVY ON REPATRIATION PENSIONERS

Mr. Lane, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Is he aware of the current provision of the Medibank scheme which seems to discriminate against "General Rate" repatriation pensioners, in that these men and women who suffer some disability incurred as a result of war service on behalf of their country are still required to meet the 2.5 per cent Medibank levy although they are already covered for medical expenses for illness associated with war injuries?

(2) Is he aware if any action is to be taken to correct this anomaly?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The matters raised by the honourable member concerning the provisions of the Medibank scheme as it relates to repatriation pensioners are matters that more appropriately fall within the province of the Commonwealth Minister for Health, and I would suggest that he approach the Commonwealth Minister to obtain clarification.

6. CHILD-CARE IN CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Lane, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport—

(1) Has he studied the report of the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau, Brisbane, produced in May this year as a result of a survey of social welfare resources of the archdiocese?

(2) If so, did he note the comment of the researcher, under the heading "Conclusions and Recommendations", that there has been a significant decrease in the number of children and youths being taken care of in Catholic institutions?

(3) Is any action being taken by his department either alone or in conjunction with the Catholic Church to fill this need for institutions for children needing care?

Answers:—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.

(3) The honourable member's attention is directed to the introduction on page five to that part of the report of the Director, Department of Children's Services, for the year ended 30 June 1976 headed "Children in Care" wherein the director makes reference to fewer children coming into care and protection than the trend in earlier years would have indicated. This factor, in conjunction with the effect of the closure in recent times of the Catholic Children's Homes, Mt. Maria Re-Education Centre for Girls, Mitchelton, Holy Cross Retreat, Woolloowin and "Loreto" Family Group Home, Kangaroo Point, together with other controls imposed by the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau itself, have resulted in the decrease in the number of children and youth being cared for in Catholic institutions as referred to in the report in question.

7. POLICE STAFFING IN MERTHYR ELECTORATE

Mr. Lane, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Police—

(1) What is the total number of police and their ranks at each of the suburban police stations of New Farm, Newstead, Hamilton and Clayfield?

(2) What is the latest shift worked by the staff at each of these stations on each day of the week?

Answer:—

- (1 and 2)—

Station and Ranks	Latest Shift Performed
NEW FARM— 1 Sergeant 1/C 5 Constables	Monday to Saturday—4 p.m.—12 m.n. Sunday—9 a.m.—5 p.m. 2 p.m.—10 p.m. every second Sunday to alternate with neighbouring Station
NEWSTEAD— 1 Sergeant 1/C 4 Constables	Monday to Thursday—9 a.m.—5 p.m. Friday and Saturday—4 p.m.—12 m.n. Sunday—9 a.m.—5 p.m. 2 p.m.—10 p.m. every second Sunday to alternate with neighbouring Station
HAMILTON— 1 Sergeant 1/C 5 Constables	Same as New Farm
CLAYFIELD— 1 Sergeant 1/C 5 Constables	Monday to Thursday—2 p.m.—10 p.m. Friday and Saturday—4 p.m.—12 m.n. Sunday—8 a.m.—4 p.m. 2 p.m.—10 p.m. every second Sunday to alternate with neighbouring Station

8. ELECTRICITY FOR RAILWAY SIDINGS

Mr. Turner, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

What is the present situation in relation to my endeavours to get electricity connected to the railway sidings of Yalleroi, Mangalore, Alice, Geera and Lochnagar?

Answer:—

The installation of electric lighting at Yalleroi has now been completed. A contract has been awarded and a commencement made on the carrying out of line work associated with the connection of electricity to departmental buildings at Mangalore.

So far as Lochnager is concerned, the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board is investigating a proposal to extend electricity to the area and further advice is awaited from that authority.

The relatively high costs involved and the unavailability of finance for the purpose have so far precluded the meeting of requests for the provision of electricity in departmental buildings at Geera and Alice, but the matter will be further examined so far as these centres are concerned.

9. APPRENTICESHIPS FOR SCHOOL-LEAVERS

Mr. Turner, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

(1) Will this State Government approach the Commonwealth Government with a view to getting it to pay an amount equal to unemployment benefits to any industry prepared to employ a school-leaver as an apprentice, instead of paying the same figure to school-leavers to live on unemployment benefits and thus not get the opportunity to learn a trade?

(2) Could this scheme, if introduced, include assistance to apprentices such as typists, carpenters, spray painters, mechanics, panelbeaters and jackeroos, etc.?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) I am advised by my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs that a wide-ranging discussion on the question of youth unemployment and lack of opportunities for school-leavers to learn a skilled trade was discussed last week at a meeting of Commonwealth and State Ministers for Labour in Adelaide. The Ministers directed their permanent heads to establish a working party of officers to investigate the practicability of training school-leavers in skills at technical colleges prior to their entering the work-force. This working party is to report back to the Ministers at a conference later in the year.

As the honourable member will also appreciate, the Government has recently established a commission of inquiry into

apprenticeship, and no doubt the practicability of the new apprenticeship callings suggested by the honourable member will receive the consideration of the commission of inquiry.

10. PROMOTION OF QUEENSLAND FLAG

Mr. Lester, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

(1) Will action be taken to promote our Queensland flag?

(2) Will the Government encourage firms to promote the production of car-port sticker-type Queensland flags, sticker-type flags and handle-type flags for children?

(3) Will schools and firms, etc., be encouraged to fly the Queensland flag?

(4) Will a day be set aside each year to give emphasis to the Queensland flag?

(5) Would such moves encourage loyalty to our own great State?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) Queenslanders are Australians first and foremost and I do not believe their national loyalty and allegiance have ever been in doubt. The record of Queenslanders in two world wars provides ample evidence of this. So far as the inculcation of loyalty to Australia is concerned, an instruction was issued some years ago to all State schools in Queensland that the Australian national flag should be broken and saluted each day at school assemblies where these are held. The Queensland flag is a State flag and is flown in appropriate places and used on appropriate occasions.

I believe in the desirability of the Australian and State flags being flown and acknowledged as widely as possible, having always in mind that neither should be placed in a position of jeopardy or desecration by the antics of disloyal and anti-Australian organisations and individuals.

11. NEBO CREEK BRIDGE

Mr. Lester, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

In view of the huge increase in the population figures of Moranbah and other hinterland towns served by the Peak Downs Highway, will a start be made on the Nebo Creek Bridge so as not to leave people in these towns isolated each wet season, which coincides with the Christmas holidays, thus depriving families of annual holiday breaks and depriving the area of tourist potential?

Answer:—

I am pleased that the honourable member has, in his usual style, brought this matter before the House. There are a number of low-level bridges on important rural arterials which warrant early reconstruction at higher levels. Nebo Creek Bridge is one of these. Planning and preliminary design is under way.

12. BLACKWATER COURT HOUSE

Mr. Lester, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

As the building is complete, when will the new court-house at Blackwater be operational?

Answer:—

An application has been made to the Public Service Board for the creation of the position of clerk of the court, Blackwater. When the position is created action will be taken to appoint a clerk of the court. The court-house will be operational as from the date he takes up duty.

13. C.S.R. LTD. REPORT TO SUGAR BOARD

Mr. Casey, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) Was a so-called confidential report by C.S.R. Ltd. to the Sugar Board regarding the quality of the 1975 sugar supplied by some mills recently published in several northern newspapers and, if so, on whose authority?

(2) As this report indicates that a very serious and damaging situation has been created for Queensland's reputation on world markets as a supplier of quality sugar, what action has been taken by the offending mills to rectify this matter?

(3) As the report casts a slur on all mills in Queensland, which were the offending mills and what penalties were imposed on them by the Queensland Sugar Board?

(4) What guarantees have been given to contracted overseas buyers that 1976 sugar will be of the required quality?

Answers:—

(1) No. The Press articles to which the honourable member refers contained extracts from a letter from the Chairman of the Sugar Board to the various sugar mills, stressing the need to maintain quality standards. This letter was wholly in keeping with the continuing policy of the board to keep the industry informed on quality requirements and to strive constantly to improve raw sugar quality. No authority was granted for the publication of this letter in the Press.

(2) The 1975 season was a particularly bad harvesting season and one of the consequences was difficulty in maintaining our normal high quality standards at all times. Quality results to date this season indicate that all mills are giving attention to the need to maintain and continually improve standards.

(3) The board's letter, to which I referred earlier, in its full context did not cast a slur on all mills in Queensland, but it did seek the co-operation of all mills in maintaining prescribed quality criteria which, by world standards, are high. The

board imposed its scale of penalties normally in 1975 and no purpose useful to the industry is served in naming particular mills.

(4) There was, and is, no need to give guarantees to overseas buyers as to the quality of Queensland sugar. Despite the honourable member's intent to embarrass the sugar industry, I would assure the honourable member that the Sugar Board and the industry have, for many years, followed a constant policy of quality improvement and will continue to do so.

14. REFLECTORISED STRIPS ON RAILWAY ROLLING-STOCK

Mr. Casey, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) In view of the continuing number of level-crossing accidents in Queensland, particularly at night-time, what further consideration has been given to the proposal that reflectorised strips be placed progressively on all railway rolling-stock in Queensland?

(2) If no such plan is under way, will he consider including such a proposal in all specifications for new rolling-stock being built for the Queensland Government and all rolling-stock being renovated in railway workshops?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) Proposals to fit reflectorised material on railway wagons have been extensively investigated by the Queensland and other Australian railway systems. It has been the unanimous decision of the systems concerned that inherent, practical and legal problems militate against the adoption of any such scheme.

15. STEEL FABRICATION COMPANIES

Mr. Yewdale, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) Is he aware of the difficulties being experienced by steel fabrication companies with the Builders' Registration Board?

(2) Is he aware that buildings that have been designed by qualified mechanical and electrical engineers and approved by both the Division of Occupational Safety and Weights and Measures and the relevant city councils cannot be erected by the engineering company but must be erected by a registered builder even though, in some cases, he subcontracts back to the engineering company for the greater portion of the work?

(3) Is he aware that companies which over the last twelve years have handled hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of contracts regarding the design, fabrication and erection of structural steel buildings, and whose work has never been

questioned by any authority in this State, are being placed in the position where they have to pay a registered builder for the use of his number to erect a building?

Answers:—

(1) The Builders' Registration Board of Queensland has registered steel fabrication companies as builders, in accordance with section 19 (6) of the Act.

(2) The design of buildings is normally the province of architects and civil engineers. Electrical and mechanical engineers are responsible for the provision of electrical and mechanical services in the building. The Division of Occupational Safety and the Department of Weights and Measures are not involved in the approval of the design of buildings. A local authority approves plans and specifications subject to compliance with the Building Act and council by-laws. I am informed that steel fabricating companies do on occasions subcontract to a registered builder to erect steel. However, the steel is only one component of a completed building, the construction of which is the responsibility of a registered builder.

(3) The Builders' Registration Act provides that, with certain exceptions, all building construction over \$500 in value must be undertaken by a registered builder. Fabrication and erection of structural steel is only one facet of work involved in the construction of a building. For the honourable member's benefit, I suggest that he should acquaint himself with the provisions of the relevant Acts and their respective purposes.

16. LONG SERVICE LEAVE FOR BUILDING WORKERS

Mr. Yewdale, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs—

In view of his protracted delay in presenting to Parliament a Bill to introduce long service leave for building workers in Queensland, when will he honour the 1974 election promise, which was made in that year's policy speech?

Answer:—

With regard to a Bill for long service leave for the building and construction industry, it is my intention to introduce this legislation during the current session. As to that part of the honourable member's question which relates to an omnibus long service leave scheme, the honourable member will be aware that since 1974 when this scheme was mooted there has been a tragic downturn in the economy which would make such an omnibus scheme completely impracticable at this time.

17. DEMOLITION OF BUILDING NEAR
ST. HELEN'S HOSPITAL

Mr. Yewdale, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

(1) With reference to an article in "The Courier-Mail" of 6 September 1976 which related to the demolition of a building opposite the St. Helen's Hospital, Peel Street, South Brisbane, was a permit required to carry out the demolition concerned and, if so, who issued the permit?

(2) Was it required to nominate the times when the demolition was to commence and be completed?

(3) Was any consideration given to what likely effect such work would have on the immediate community and in particular the hospital patients?

(4) Will he take steps to ensure that such activities are not continued to the detriment of the community?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) The Department of Works has been informed that neither the main contractor, E. A. Watts Pty. Ltd., nor the delegated superintendent of the contract, Robin Gibson & Partners had any knowledge that the demolition in question was to be completed in the early hours of 4 September. The parties concerned have apologised to the hospital authorities for any inconvenience caused and in future the contractors will notify the delegated superintendent 24 hours in advance of any matters which are liable to create a noise nuisance outside the specified normal working hours.

18. GRANTS FOR RURAL ROADS

Mr. Neal, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

(1) With reference to an article in the August-September "Road Ahead", wherein it was reported that an allocation of nearly \$5,000,000 was made to 124 local authorities in Queensland by the Commonwealth Government for spending on rural roads in the 1976-77 financial year, when will this money be available to local authorities?

(2) Are the grants Commonwealth aid allocations for 1976-77 or are they special grants to local authorities?

Answers:—

(1) Funds are being made available progressively as road schemes are released and as advances are made against Commonwealth aid allocations.

(2) The amounts refer to interim allocations approved by the Commonwealth for rural local roads. The amounts are not councils' C.A.L.A.R. allocations for 1976-77. The Commonwealth Minister for Transport has not yet advised his approval of how the extra \$7,500,000 is distributed between road categories.

19. MEDICAL SERVICES, ST. GEORGE AND
DIRRANBANDI

Mr. Neal, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

(1) With reference to his answer to my question on 1 September, wherein he advised that a relieving medical officer had been directed to serve the Balonne Hospitals Board, was the medical officer instructed by his department to commence duties at Dirranbandi and then move to St. George during the absence of the St. George superintendent on leave?

(2) Did the Balonne Hospitals Board ratify this arrangement at a recent meeting?

(3) As these arrangements will leave Dirranbandi and district without the services of a medical practitioner, will he make every endeavour to secure the services of a medical practitioner for that town?

Answers:—

(1) The appointment of medical officers is primarily the responsibility of hospitals boards. When hospitals boards have difficulties in this regard, the Director-General of Health and Medical Services endeavours to help the boards by allocating an officer either from the scholarship pool or from second year resident medical officers at base hospitals. The number of medical officers available for such allocation is limited. When there are more demands than available officers, a priority has to be determined. In this case, the relieving pool was only sufficient to allow the allocation of one doctor for the Balonne Hospitals Board.

The Director-General of Health and Medical Services contacted the private practitioners in St. George and was advised that they could not act as medical superintendent during the absence of the superintendent from St. George. It was then decided that the one officer available during the absence of the St. George superintendent would better serve the whole district by being stationed at St. George.

(2) My information is to the effect that the Balonne Hospitals Board came to the conclusion that their board had no other solution at present because of unavailability of another medical officer as a replacement.

(3) The honourable member's personal representations on behalf of Dirranbandi and district will certainly be kept in mind.

20. COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OF
ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHILDREN

Mr. Neal, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

With reference to his ministerial Press release of 10 August, wherein it was stated that a conference was to be held

at the Canberra Hotel on 18 and 19 August to explore the possibility of forming a consultative committee to advise the Director-General of Education on new measures concerning the education of Aboriginal and Islander children, was the committee set up and, if so, has it submitted any recommendations to date?

Answer:—

This conference was held. A report is being prepared for presentation to the Director-General of Education. A steering committee of seven Aborigines and Islanders was elected from the conference membership. It is proposed to enlarge this membership to 12 in the very near future. No recommendations have been submitted to date.

21. CERTIFICATES FOR SCHOOL-LEAVERS

Dr. Lockwood, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

(1) How many students were denied Junior or Senior Certificates in 1974 and 1975 because they left school a short time before completing the last semester?

(2) What advice is offered by his department on this subject?

(3) What discretion have principals, regional directors of education or the Director-General of Education in granting education certificates if the year was not completed because of ill health, accident or the family moving from the district?

(4) Have students been advised by teachers that entry to colleges of advanced education would be possible without these certificates?

(5) Do the colleges require such certificates?

(6) Will he advise the parents of students and students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the exact attendance requirements long before their holiday employment is considered?

Answers:—

(1) No student who was eligible to receive a Junior Certificate or a Senior Certificate was denied one, but some students rendered themselves ineligible. Information concerning the numbers who did not receive certificates in 1974 and 1975 is not available.

(2) The issuing of Junior and Senior Certificates is a matter for the Board of Secondary School Studies and not the Department of Education. However, the advice is given to students—

(i) through a notice in the newspapers

(ii) through a notice sent to every school

(iii) announcement by schools to students in each class.

(3) By-law No. 2 of the Board of Secondary School Studies provides that a student shall be entitled to a certificate notwithstanding that he has been absent from school, provided—

(a) The period of absence is not such as to preclude a reliable assessment of the student's work; and

(b) Such absence is occasioned by a circumstance of justification such as illness, travelling with parents on transfer and normal annual vacation with parents.

(4 and 5) Normal qualification for entry to a college of advanced education is a tertiary entrance statement, but each tertiary institution has provision for special consideration for student entrance without a tertiary entrance statement. Teachers in schools have probably acquainted students of this fact.

(6) All schools have been notified by the Board of Secondary School Studies of dates of attendance required of students for receipt of board certificates through to 1979.

22. VANDALISM AND ARSON IN SCHOOLS

Dr. Lockwood, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) Is he aware of overseas reports of increasing vandalism and arson in schools?

(2) What was the cost of vandalism and arson to State schools in 1974-75 and 1975-76?

(3) If these figures are not available, will he undertake to see that these costs to the State are kept and presented to this Parliament?

Answers:—

(1) I have not been made aware of such reports.

(2 and 3) Replacement costs as a result of losses by fire in State schools were—
1974-75, \$42,587.00; and
1975-76, \$349,082.00.

No statistical information as to the cost attributed to vandalism in schools is maintained. The administrative cost of maintaining records of this nature, in detail, to cover the whole of the State, would not be justified.

23. COMPTON ROAD OVERPASS

Mrs. Kyburz, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

Has he been able to persuade the Brisbane City Council to share the cost of an overpass for Compton Road, particularly as the Albert Shire Council has promised \$100,000 towards the cost?

Mr. HINZE: The official reply is a very dry sort of statement. I believe that the best way to reply to the honourable member

would be along the lines that I have not yet been able to persuade the Lord Mayor of the City of Brisbane that the council should make a contribution of about \$100,000—I think that is the figure—towards the cost of this job. I am not blaming him; it is just that I have not had a chance to talk seriously to him about it. The Albert Shire indicated through its chairman (Councillor Muntz) that it would be prepared to make \$100,000 available. That is what one would expect from a council that is being conducted in such a very efficient way.

Compton Road is not a gazetted road, but a boundary road, and that is why there has been so much duck-shoving about it. The overpass is in an area where an old railway line was put down. An increased amount of traffic is now using Compton Road. I believe that the Brisbane City Council will come to the party, and probably we will be able to squeeze something like the figure I have mentioned from the Brisbane City Council. The Main Roads Department will make a contribution. It is most desirable that we assist the representations of the honourable member for Salisbury, who is doing such an excellent job on behalf of her electorate. It is fitting that this Chamber should have the privilege of hearing her representations from time to time. I will have much pleasure in supporting her representations to the Lord Mayor of Brisbane in an endeavour to overcome the problem as quickly as possible.

24. NURSES TO GIVE INTRAVENOUS INJECTIONS

Mr. Ahern for **Mr. M. D. Hooper**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Will the State Government consider amending the Act or regulation to permit registered nurses employed in State public hospitals to give intravenous injections to patients when such treatment has been ordered by a qualified medical practitioner and also to permit senior nurses (that is, in their 3rd year of training) to give similar injections under the supervision of registered nurses?

(2) Does he acknowledge that the legalised practice would, in many cases, save the patient from painful intramuscular injections, which resident medical officers usually administer if recalled to duty late at night or in the early hours of the morning and that at present only doctors are legally qualified to give intravenous injections, but that in most cases they are loath to administer this type of treatment because of the amount of time required to set up a drip treatment?

(3) Is it impracticable and would it cause administrative difficulties to have doctors rostered for night duty merely to service intravenous treatment, which in some cases is more desirable than intramuscular injections?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) There is no legislation which prohibits nurses employed in State public hospitals from giving intravenous injections.

Relevant legislation is contained in section 47 (4C) of the Medical Act which states that any person connected with the practice or attempted practice of medicine who uses a hypodermic syringe shall be deemed to hold himself out as being a medical practitioner unless he is a person who is acting under the supervision or instruction or upon the request of a medical practitioner. This legislation, of course, does not refer specifically to intravenous injections but the use of a syringe. It does, however, permit nurses acting at the request of a medical practitioner to give such injections.

I understand the practice regarding this procedure varies from hospital to hospital. In some hospitals where sufficient doctors are available, it is the practice for nurses only to give intravenous injections through drip treatment equipment.

I will have the matter examined further to determine whether or not it is necessary to issue guide-lines regarding the procedure.

25. RECONSTRUCTION OF ROSS RIVER ROAD

Mr. Ahern for **Mr. M. D. Hooper**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

Will work commence soon on the reconstruction of Ross River Road west of Cross Street and will this work not be deferred as it was two years ago by the infamous Charlie Jones in the Whitlam Government, who reduced Budget allocations for arterial roads in Queensland?

Answer:—

The scheme for the reconstruction of the Ross River Road west of Cross Street is programmed for release at an early date for construction by contract. Pre-registration of tenderers has been completed, and design is now being finalised for inviting tenders in October.

26. PROTECTION OF SMALL BUSINESSES; STEEL FABRICATION COMPANIES

Mr. Ahern for **Mr. M. D. Hooper**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs—

(1) As his Department of Commercial and Industrial Development actively pursues a policy of promoting decentralisation and aid to small businesses, particularly in provincial cities and towns, what action does he propose to take to protect the viability of such enterprises once they are established?

(2) With reference to the plight of North Queensland steel fabricators and suppliers of engineering labour, is he

aware that in the past year Townsville steel fabricators were not invited to tender for a bulk-storage shed for Queensland Phosphate, a storage shed at Lavarack Barracks, a casting-house extension at the copper refineries and steelwork to support a boiler at C.S.R.'s Macknade Mill?

(3) As southern suppliers have an advantage of approximately \$18 a tonne start on North Queensland fabricators with capital city prices for steel, if the Government cannot exert sufficient pressure on B.H.P. to grant capital city prices for steel landed in Townsville, can it legislate to make it mandatory for local fabricators to be invited to tender on developmental projects, with a preference to the local tenderer, or, alternatively, subsidise fabricators outside of Brisbane to the extent of the freight rate on steel ex Brisbane, in order to give the local fabricators and employers of labour a chance to compete on an equal basis with the Brisbane suppliers and make this Government's policy of decentralisation a reality and not one of despair?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The Department of Commercial and Industrial Development is concerned with the viability of all industry in Queensland but none more so than those manufacturers who are established in decentralised areas. To this end the department is the principal sponsor of the "Buy Queensland Made" campaign, which indeed has produced positive benefits for local manufacturers. As the honourable member is, of course, aware, the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development provides land and, under certain conditions, factory buildings for rental. In each case the rentals are weighted heavily in favour of those in decentralised areas.

In terms of Government purchasing, not only is a preference given to Queensland manufacturers over interstate and overseas firms, but a special five per cent is awarded decentralised manufacturers over those in the metropolitan area. We in Queensland espouse the cause of the free-enterprise system. As a consequence I would be loath to contemplate legislation which would compel companies or firms to buy in a particular market. We can, should and do encourage preference for Queensland manufacture. However, in the open market, outside of Government purchasing, I believe we should allow the normal principles of supply and demand to operate.

On the question of steel prices, the Queensland Government has on several occasions submitted a case both to the Commonwealth authorities and B.H.P. Co. Ltd. for the adoption of capital city steel prices for Townsville. To date we have been unsuccessful. We will nevertheless continue our efforts in this direction.

27. MEDICAL BENEFITS FOR OPTICAL SERVICES

Mr. Prest, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Will Medical Benefits Fund of Australia still pay optometrists for spectacles only?

(2) Will Medibank pay optometrists' consulting fees as usual from 1 October?

(3) Does Medibank pay contracting optometrists for consultations at the Gladstone Hospital or hospitals elsewhere in the State?

Answers:—

(1) I am advised that in a supplementary benefit table of Medical Benefits Fund of Australia, a benefit will be payable for the supply of spectacles.

(2) I am also advised that in the basic medical table of the Medical Benefits Fund of Australia, a benefit, as provided in the Medical Benefit Schedule under the provisions of the Health Insurance Act, will be payable where eye-testing is carried out by an optometrist or an ophthalmologist.

(3) I am advised that Medibank would not pay benefits unless consultations were actually undertaken in the optometrist's or ophthalmologist's private consulting rooms.

28. REALIGNMENT OF BRUCE HIGHWAY AT MT. LARCOM

Mr. Prest, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

Since inspecting the proposed alignment of the Bruce Highway through the township of Mt. Larcom on land held by the Railway Department, has action been taken to have the railway land transferred to the Main Roads Department for the realignment of the Bruce Highway on the eastern side of the town, as requested by the Mt. Larcom Chamber of Commerce over a number of years?

Answer:—

I informed the Mt. Larcom Chamber of Commerce in a letter of 2 September that I had arranged for the Main Roads Department to ascertain from the Railway Department its proposed plans for the area. If the Railway Department were in a position to make land available, a detailed evaluation of the two routes could be made at an early date. The Railway Department could then be advised of any land requirements for road purposes should the evaluation favour the eastern route.

29. FEMALE CRABS

Mr. Prest, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries—

(1) Is he aware that a great number of female crabs are being sent to southern markets weekly from the Central Queensland area?

(2) Will he take action to protect that section of the fishing industry by introducing a heavier penalty for a person having female crabs in his possession or offering female crabs for sale?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) I am aware that consignments of female crabs reach southern markets undetected on occasions, and provision is being made in proposed new fisheries legislation to substantially increase penalties for such breaches.

In addition, I have arranged for increased surveillance by patrol officers in the area of concern.

30. FLOOD-MITIGATION WORKS, BRISBANE AREA

Mr. Gygar, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

(1) Which bodies are responsible for cleaning the beds of creeks within the metropolitan area, including both tidal and non-tidal creeks?

(2) Why was the removal of gravel from non-tidal creek beds stopped and by which authority or body was this stopped?

(3) Which bodies are responsible for mowing and/or clearing the undergrowth on creek banks, which is now reaching the stage of secondary jungle in some areas?

(4) How much money has been and will be allocated by the State Government for flood-mitigation works within the Brisbane metropolitan area?

(5) Which authority or body is responsible for the control and co-ordination of flood-mitigation works within the Brisbane area?

Answers:—

(1) Tidal watercourses—Department of Harbours and Marine, in respect of navigation. Brisbane City Council, in respect of flood mitigation and drainage.

In addition, the Harbours Act provides that, subject to the prior approval of the Governor in Council, any statutory body, organisation or person may clear the beds of tidal watercourses for the purpose of carrying out its functions or for other approved purposes.

Non-tidal watercourses—Brisbane City Council, in respect of flood mitigation and drainage.

(2) The removal of gravel from non-tidal creek beds is governed by the provisions of the Water Act. It is accordingly suggested that the honourable member direct this particular part of his question to the Honourable the Minister for Water Resources, who administers that Act.

(3) I presume that the honourable member refers to the banks of creeks above highwater mark. Responsibility for

maintaining these areas in a clean condition would rest with the person, organisation or authority owning them. The Brisbane City Council has certain powers under its ordinances and the Local Government Act, 1936–1976 to require an owner of land to deal with noxious weeds or dangerous plants growing thereon.

(4) The State Government paid to the Brisbane City Council during 1975–76 a sum of \$2,060,208.72 towards the cost of flood-mitigation works on Enoggera, Breakfast, Ithaca and Fish Creeks. This was in respect of a scheme funded on the basis of a 40 per cent contribution by the Commonwealth Government, 40 per cent by the State Government and 20 per cent by the council. This scheme is to be continued during the current financial year on the same basis, and it is anticipated that the State Government's contribution this year will be of the order of \$1,840,000.

Other flood-mitigation works to be carried out by the Brisbane City Council will be subsidised by the State at the normal rate of 33½ per cent, with no contribution by the Commonwealth Government.

(5) Brisbane City Council, subject to the provisions of the City of Brisbane (Flood Mitigation Works Approval) Act 1952–1974.

31. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS RECORDING LECTURES

Mr. Gygar, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

(1) Is he aware that Queensland Government Gazette No. 118 of 21 August, page 2076, notified an amendment to Rule 8, Statute No. 44 of the University of Queensland, which prohibits students from recording any lectures, seminars or tutorials without the prior written permission of the lecturer or tutor concerned?

(2) Why is it considered necessary for students to get this written permission before they can write down any notes during lectures?

(3) Why are students expected to sit through lectures like stunned mullet without taking notes and what is so objectionable about lecture notes?

(4) Who is responsible for this latest example of academic impracticality and bureaucratic stupidity?

Answers:—

(1) I am aware that Statute 44 of the University of Queensland was amended to prohibit a student from recording, by means of any instrument, apparatus or device, a lecture, seminar or tutorial without the prior written permission of the lecturer or tutor concerned.

(2 to 4) I am advised that the provision referred to does not require a student to obtain written or any permission before he can make notes during a lecture and it is common practice for students to make such notes.

32. PHYTOPHTHORA OR CINNAMON FUNGUS
ON TREES

Mrs. Kippin, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service—

As last week's programme of "Weekend Magazine" reported that fungal disease, phytophthora, commonly known as cinnamon fungus, was causing serious losses in native forests in North Queensland, has the disease been found in the rain forests of our national parks or in the commercial forestry reserves of Far North Queensland and, if so, what measures are being taken by his department to prevent the spread of the disease?

Answer:—

Yes. I would refer the honourable member for Mourilyan to a ministerial press statement made by my colleague the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service on 2 August last concerning this matter and which covered the points raised in the question.

In that statement he indicated that the presence of the disease had been confirmed in patches of mature rain forest in the Mackay and Ingham areas. In the case of Mackay, the areas involve parts of State forests and national parks in the vicinity of Eungella while at Ingham part of Oak Hills Holding is known to be affected.

The statement also outlined measures being taken to determine the extent of the disease and to investigate means of control. A research programme has been initiated and a graduate forester is engaged full time on field studies into the problem, supported by ancilliary and specialist staff. The extent of occurrence of the disease is being monitored by aerial reconnaissance and photography over the rain forest areas. Costs of these investigations are being shared by the Department of Forestry and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

In order to minimise spread of the disease while the investigations are in progress, logging has been suspended on certain affected areas and the co-operation of loggers has been sought in limiting the movement of vehicles and machinery which could carry infected soil.

33. CESSATION OF QUARRYING AT
MT. ETNA

Mr. Wright, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

In view of the granting of mining leases at Bracewell, as the new operation there, linked with the planned cement plant at

Gladstone, will be capable of supplying Queensland's entire needs for cement at a reduced unit-cost of production, as both the Bracewell and Mt. Etna operations are conducted by companies that co-operate very closely and run their business without any effective competition and as the quarrying of Mt. Etna will cease to be economically competitive once the Gladstone plant becomes operational, how soon will the quarrying of Mt. Etna cease?

Answer:—

The proposed plant at Gladstone is to produce clinker; that at Rockhampton currently produces both cement and lime. The determination of whether, at any stage, it is economic to continue these operations at Rockhampton, based on supplies of limestone from leases at Mt. Etna, is purely a matter for the company concerned.

34. FORGERY ALLEGATIONS BY MR. J. W.
MAHONEY

Mr. Wright, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Police—

(1) With regard to the forgery allegations made to his department by Mr. John William Mahoney, is it correct that, while South Coast police officers said that the accused would be prosecuted, the complaint was not proceeded with when the case was sent to Police Headquarters in Brisbane?

(2) Did the accused refuse to answer any questions in relation to the matter on the advice of his solicitor?

(3) As the Legal Advisory Branch has stated "from such investigations by the police there would appear to be little doubt that the signature in question is a forgery", and it is normal practice that no further action is taken in such a complaint if the accused simply refuses to answer any questions, will he now re-investigate the case in view of the fact that the same accused was involved in the passing of valueless cheques to I.A.C. to the value of \$23,000 and also illegally sold the same floor plan of a company trading as New General Marine to I.A.C. and Borg Warner?

Answers:—

(1) The forgery allegations of Mr. John William Mahoney have been investigated and the Police Department has accepted that on the advice of the Crown's legal adviser there is insufficient evidence to justify any criminal proceedings.

(2) Yes.

(3) Each particular complaint is dealt with on its merits, and action is taken in accordance with the evidence available as a whole as to whether it can establish a prima facie case. Should additional evidence be produced, action will be taken accordingly.

35. COMPANY, NEW GENERAL
MARINE

Mr. Wright, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

(1) With regard to the problems which have confronted New General Marine, what action can be taken against a director of this company who, prior to its winding-up, sold his shares by falsely claiming that the company had a profit of \$70,000 when it was known that the official profit and loss account and balance sheet showed a net loss of \$60,488.00?

(2) What action can also be taken against a director who conspired with other members of the firm to see that the company went broke so that an eventual take-over could take place?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The action which may be taken against the director of a company for selling his shares would depend on the factual situation. If it could be shown that there was a false representation in respect of the sale of the shares, then criminal action under the Criminal Code could be taken.

In relation to the other aspect referred to, once again the factual situation would determine what action could be taken. If there were a conspiracy to defraud by the director and other members of the company and there was sufficient evidence available, criminal action could be taken under section 430 of the Criminal Code.

I am advised by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs that there is no record of New General Marine being registered under that name either as a company or as a user of a business name. If the honourable member has any information which would indicate any fraudulent activity in respect of a Queensland company or firm, he should convey the information to either the Commissioner of Police or the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs.

36. BYPASS OF BRUCE HIGHWAY AT
BABINDA

Mr. Ahern for **Mr. Armstrong**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

(1) Which of the routes that were investigated for the bypass of the Bruce Highway at the township of Babinda has been decided upon by the Main Roads Department?

(2) When will construction of the bypass commence?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) No final decision has been reached on the final route of the Babinda bypass. As late as this morning I had discussions with the commissioner about this. Route 4 has been ruled out completely because of the cost involved. That

route lies along the old railway line. Routes 2A and 2B are each estimated to cost about \$2,800,000. The other alternative (Route 1) goes through about 14 houses and involves noise and other factors. This matter is causing considerable concern. As I said, no final decision has yet been made. We intend to have further discussions with the local authority but the start of construction work is some time off.

37. HOUSING FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES,
CLONCURRY

Mr. Bertoni, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) What is the number and cost of the new houses now being built for railway employees at Cloncurry?

(2) What is the completion date and the anticipated rent for the houses?

Answers:—

(1) Sixteen houses at a cost of \$478,924.55.

(2) Three houses are expected to be completed during the week ending 17 September 1976, and the remainder at the rate of three per week thereafter. It is expected that the rental will be in the vicinity of \$45 per week.

38. WATER RESOURCES PLAN FOR
DARLING DOWNS

Mr. Warner, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

As he is aware of the future critical water-storage problems facing Toowoomba city and the Darling Downs-Condamine Basin area, what steps have been taken to form a committee to prepare a much-needed strategic plan for the use of land and water resources in that area?

Answer:—

Preliminary discussions have been held between interested Government departments and local authorities in regard to the matter raised by the honourable member.

The Toowoomba City Council is taking steps to augment its water supply by the building of the Cressbrook Dam, the design of which is currently in progress.

The completion of this dam should assure a reliable supply of water for the city of Toowoomba and its environs for the next 20 years.

Rural water supplies for the locality in question are matters for consideration by my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Water Resources.

39. RO-A-VIT TABLETS

Mr. Warner, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

Is a doctor's prescription necessary to purchase Ro-a-Vit tablets, which are produced by a firm called Roche and, if so, why have the tablets been so scheduled?

Answer:—

Ro-a-vit tablets are included in Schedule 4 of the Poisons Regulations and thus may be dispensed only on a doctor's prescription. They have been included in this schedule at the recommendation of the National Health and Medical Research Council, I understand the reason being the high quantity of vitamin A included in each tablet.

40. POLICE STAFFING, TOOWOOMBA

Mr. Warner, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Police—

(1) When will the ten men approved for beat control duty in Toowoomba be transferred there?

(2) Will he consider the appointment of a detective-sergeant 2nd class to Toowoomba as soon as possible?

Answers:—

(1) The transfer of police officers to Toowoomba for beat patrols will be made in accordance with priority of other provincial cities and availability of man-power.

(2) The question of the most effective allocation of resources is always under consideration. I can assure the honourable member that his request for the appointment of a detective-sergeant 2nd class to Toowoomba will be kept under review.

41. RUNAWAY BAY HOTEL AND DUST MENACE, HOLLYWELL

Mr. Dean, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the report in the "Gold Coast Bulletin" of 4 September that the new Runaway Bay Hotel will be officially opened on 9 October?

(2) Will he ascertain from the Gold Coast City Council why such priority was given to Lae Enterprises to build the hotel before the present dust menace had been eliminated from the Runaway Bay development?

(3) In deference to the health and welfare of the Hollywell ratepayers, will he ascertain from the Gold Coast City Council if it is its intention to allow Lae Enterprises to again pollute the homes of ratepayers this summer with black sand blown by the prevailing winds from the exposed heaps of sand left by the company when it transferred its attention to building the hotel?

(4) Will he exercise his ministerial authority to exert pressure on the Gold Coast City Council to make it police the local government regulations in relation to the dust menace being created by Lae Enterprises, causing a real health hazard to Hollywell ratepayers? If not, will he state the reason why action will not be taken against the council?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2 to 4) I know that the honourable member for Sandgate has a wealth of knowledge in affairs such as this. Besides that, I think he has a holiday home there. Obviously, none of us would want to see dust being blown continuously into the honourable member's home. Frankly, I think this has happened because it is a new estate and the top soil is being blown away at present. I shall discuss the matter with the Gold Coast City Council to get some relief for the honourable member as quickly as possible. We all think a lot of Harry Dean (the honourable member for Sandgate) and that is the only reason I am doing this, of course.

42. ANOMALIES IN HOSPITAL LAUNDRY WAGES

Mr. Dean, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Is he aware that laundry managers in Queensland public hospitals receive about half the remuneration of their equivalents in Victoria and New South Wales?

(2) Is he aware that laundry foremen, who are responsible to laundry managers, receive more pay than these managers?

(3) Is there any reason for not classifying laundry managers as public servants?

(4) What steps will the Government take to alleviate this injustice?

Answers:—

(1) Complete details of other States' salary rates of the various categories of hospital employees are not readily available in my department.

(2) I am advised that the base rate of pay for laundry managers is higher than that for laundry foremen.

(3) Laundry managers are employees of hospitals boards and as such could not be brought within the provisions of the Public Service Acts and Regulations.

(4) Any laundry manager who feels that a review should be undertaken of his salary classification should make a submission in the first instance to the hospitals board, who if it sees fit, will refer such application to my department for consideration.

43. BRIGHTON STATE SCHOOL

Mr. Dean, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

In view of his letter of 19 August this year to the parents and citizens' association of the Brighton State School, advising that the building of the new administration block had again been deferred because other works had higher priority, will he give further consideration to having

approval given in this year's allocation because the main staff room, which is 12 ft. square, has to cater for up to 18 female staff members, the principal's room is an enclosed porch without space for interviews and lacks proper facilities, the library is a room 21 ft. square and is completely inadequate for a school with nearly 600 pupils and two classrooms are below acceptable standards in size?

Answer:—

In view of the difficulties of administrative accommodation at Brighton State School I have arranged for improvements to be effected as part of my department's capital works programme during the current financial year.

The provision of improved library and classroom accommodation must await the availability of funds.

44. FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE
INSPECTION OF CATTLE

Mr. McKechnie, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a statement in last week's "Queensland Country Life" newspaper which refers to a Stanthorpe grazier who lost two head of cattle from a mysterious disease?

(2) In view of his department's concern about the possibility of foot and mouth disease coming into this country and despite Mr. McBeth's plea to the local stock inspector, will he explain why no inspection was made of these cattle?

(3) What facilities are available in Queensland or Australia to quickly diagnose foot and mouth disease virus?

(4) If there is no laboratory for such a purpose, will he make an urgent plea to his Commonwealth counterpart to have this facility made available in this State?

Answers:—

(1) Yes, an investigation of Mr. McBeth's complaint was instigated on 30 August.

(2) It is not customary for departmental officers to investigate sickness in single animals unless symptoms suggest a notifiable disease. In this case, Mr. McBeth rang the Stanthorpe stock inspector, reporting that he had one cow which was losing condition. He did not report any symptoms of foot and mouth disease. The stock inspector agreed to contact the divisional veterinary officer, Toowoomba, to see if a veterinary officer would be available in the Stanthorpe area within a day or two, but the divisional veterinary officer considered that the report did not warrant immediate investigation.

(3) Detailed plans have been drawn up to deal with suspected foot and mouth disease outbreaks, including instructions

for the collection and transmission of specimens to the World Reference Laboratory at Pirbright, Surrey, in the United Kingdom for definitive diagnosis and virus typing. Specimens could be delivered at Pirbright from Queensland within 48 hours of collection in most instances.

(4) The Federal Government has taken the decision to build a maximum security veterinary diagnostic laboratory for the diagnosis of exotic diseases near Geelong, Victoria. Work has started on the project, but I understand that further progress was deferred in the recent Federal Budget.

45.

HEN QUOTAS

Mr. Alison, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

Is it correct that under existing hen quota legislation an egg producer with a quota may not purchase another quota from another area and have that quota added to his original quota for the production of eggs on his original farm? If so, will he explain the reasons for this restrictive legislation in the first place?

Answer:—

The hen quota legislation provides for hen quotas to attach both to the persons to whom they are allocated and to the land specified in the allocations. The legislation also provides for transfers to take place only with the prior approval of the quota committee. The committee does not approve of the sale of quotas independently of the land to which such quotas attach. It is a matter of record that the egg industry indicated its support for the scheme in a ballot of growers. Approximately 80 per cent of votes were cast in favour of the scheme. The package included the non-transferability of quotas independently of the farm to which they attach.

The reasons for this general policy are two-fold. In the first place, the legislation was designed to stabilise the industry by eliminating surplus production and thereby assisting producers in the industry. It was not designed to create a saleable asset for people wishing to leave the industry. In addition, free sale of quotas would lead to a situation whereby the basic cost structure of the industry would be increased. This would be undesirable as far as both egg producers and consumers are concerned. The free sale of quotas could also lead to the concentration of the industry in disproportionately few hands and this is considered to be undesirable.

I am aware that the industry is preparing a case for some controlled sale of quotas and I will be pleased to consider the proposals when they are submitted.

46. SUBSIDIES TO BOWLS AND GOLF CLUBS

Mr. Alison, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport—

How much money was paid to bowls and golf clubs by way of subsidy from the Department of Sport during 1974-75 and 1975-76?

Answer:—

Subsidies paid to bowls and golf clubs from funds allocated for encouragement to sport during the financial years 1974-75 and 1975-76 were as under:—

—	1974-75	1975-76
	\$	\$
Bowls	90,022.06	164,485.60
Golf	138,359.98	104,443.33

The subsidies are paid for sporting facilities. No assistance is given for licensed premises.

47. BREAKING AND ENTERING OFFENCES, EAST-LAND VIEW ESTATE

Mr. Byrne, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Police—

(1) In relation to the East-Land View Estate in the Carina-Creek Road area, how many separate theft or breaking and entering offences have been reported to the police in 1975 and 1976, respectively, concerning houses or building sites, and how many separate residences have been involved?

(2) In how many of the cases have the police brought charges against any person or persons?

(3) In regard to any outstanding cases, have the police any information which supports the belief that further cases will be cleared up in the near future?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) Statistics of the kind sought are not readily available without a great deal of research being undertaken. I do not propose directing that that research be undertaken. All possible police action will be taken with a view to locating and prosecuting offenders for outstanding offences of this nature.

48. SEALING OF BRUCE HIGHWAY; TOURIST FACILITIES

Mr. Byrne, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

(1) In view of the importance of tourism to the North and the fact that many Brisbane vacationers enjoy holidaying by road transport, when is it expected that the Bruce Highway will be totally sealed?

(2) As there are no Main Roads Department rest areas on the Bruce Highway

between Marlborough and Bowen or on the Marlborough-Sarina and Lotus Creek to Bowen roads, when will such be provided for the use of travellers?

Answers:—

(1) The sealing of a route between Brisbane and Cairns was completed in 1963. However, a major deviation between Marlborough and Sarina via St. Lawrence, which is presently under construction, will take several years yet to complete.

(2) Consideration is currently being given to the location of rest areas to best serve requirements throughout the State. The Marlborough-Sarina route of the Bruce Highway will receive due consideration in this regard.

49. PROHIBITION ON SMOKING IN BUSES AND PLANES

Mr. Byrne, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Is he aware of the Brisbane City Council 90-day “no smoking” trial proposal for city council buses?

(2) In view of the common-sense approach adopted here, will he confer with his Commonwealth ministerial counterpart to see that a similar circumstance pertains for air travel?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) As the honourable member knows, airlines have already set aside non-smoking seats. I am willing to have the matter examined further.

50. DRAINAGE BOARDS

Mr. Row, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Water Resources—

With the formation of drainage boards under the present State Government legislation, what precautions are taken to ensure that the powers of the boards do not impinge upon local authority by-laws?

Answer:—

Drainage boards established under the Water Act have powers only in regard to the construction, maintenance and operation of the works and to rating as defined in the Order in Council constituting the scheme. Where the local authority is involved in any of its activities, it is usual for discussions to be held between the local authority and the drainage board concerned to determine the approach required. I would be pleased to be informed of any problems arising between a local authority and a water or drainage board if they are due to some overlapping of statutory powers.

51. PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

Mr. Row, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

(1) Is he aware of the great concern of local authorities where pedestrian crossings have been entirely eliminated from some town streets under the provisions of the National Uniform Traffic Code?

(2) What action will he take to have this serious anomaly overcome in order to restore safety to pedestrians when crossing streets?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) Some of the concern expressed by many local authorities has been removed following explanation of basic reasons for code requirements by specialist officers of the Main Roads Department.

I can assure the honourable member that safety was foremost in the minds of those responsible for the national code and it is still considered by these experts that the safety of all road users is best served by the present standard. Should any local authority desire discussion or explanation with specialist officers, arrangements can be made through the local district or divisional offices of the Main Roads Department. If the honourable member does not feel satisfied I would be pleased to receive representations from him on behalf of any of the local authorities in his area.

52. RAIL-MOTOR SERVICES
CAIRNS-RAVENSHOE

Mr. Jones, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) With further reference to his answer to my question of 3 September 1975 concerning restriction of services on the Cairns-Ravenshoe railway, were the Australian Postal Commission's mail contracts terminated on this branch line as from 30 June 1976 and, if so, what was the attributable cause for discontinuance of this contract?

(2) In view of this type of downgrading and in an endeavour to dispel persistent rumour in the area, will he undertake to give assurances that this line will not be considered for closure and that an efficient service in the interests of the Tableland and Cairns communities will be maintained?

Answers:—

(1) The introduction of a road mail service between Cairns and Ravenshoe as from 1 July 1976 was based on a decision made by Australia Post, which authority notified the Railway Department on 17 May 1976 of its intention to do so.

(2) There has been no curtailment of rail motor services on this branch since my advice of 3 September 1975 to the honourable member. In accordance with general policy, the operations of this branch, as well as those of all other branch lines,

will be subject to review from time to time. There is, however, no present intention to close any section of the railway between Cairns and Ravenshoe.

The proposed use of a road service for the carriage of mails from Cairns via Mareeba to Ravenshoe, Millaa Millaa and returning to Herberton was raised with me in March 1976 by the honourable member for Mourilyan (Mrs. Kippin) and I take the liberty of quoting the contents of my reply dated 8 April 1976—

"The suggestion that the daily rail motor between Cairns and Ravenshoe is to be cancelled is of a most scurrilous nature and I refute the statement that because the Railway Department is withdrawing this service that the Postal Commission has been forced to introduce this road service.

"In fact, the first advice the Railway Department had of this subject was on 30th January, 1976 when a letter was received from the Postal Commission stating that it would be discontinuing use of the rail service for carriage of mails between Cairns, Ravenshoe via Mareeba and Millaa Millaa, which will result in a reduction in revenue to the Railway Department of approximately \$9,500.00 per annum.

"Negotiations are still proceeding between the Railway Department and the Australian Postal Commission relative to rail carriage of mails to other places on the Atherton Tableland, but irrespective of the outcome, there is nothing which I can do in relation to the method of carriage of Her Majesty's mail."

No doubt the honourable member for Mourilyan has informed interested parties within the electorate.

53. USE OF DREDGES AT CAIRNS

Mr. Jones, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Tourism and Marine Services—

(1) Further to answers to my questions of 10, 22 and 31 October 1974, is he aware that the Cairns Harbour Board's dredger "Trinity Bay" was recently recalled from sand-reclamation work to undertake emergency clearing of a troublesome section of the Cairns entrance channel only seven weeks after the "Sir Thomas Hiley" had completed a period of her contract dredging?

(2) In the event of a channel slippage occurring in the port of Cairns after the "Trinity Bay" has been phased out, would it be possible to engage the services of the Townsville Harbour Board's dredger "Townsville" to re-open the port if the "Sir Thomas Hiley" is not available?

(3) In the event of either dredger not being available, does the port of Cairns face the prospect of being downgraded as a sugar exporting port?

Answers:—

(1) The shoaled section of the Cairns entrance channel, referred to by the honourable member, covered a small area along the edge of the channel, which was known at the time the "Sir Thomas Hiley" was in Cairns. Its existence was notified to shipping companies, but no navigational restrictions were imposed by the harbour master on this account. As the "Sir Thomas Hiley" was programmed to return to Cairns within three months, after urgent dredging at Weipa was attended to, it was decided to use this dredger for more essential maintenance in the centre of the channel during the first visit. After the dredge had left Cairns, the Cairns Harbour Board dredge "Trinity Bay" was brought in to remove this shoal.

(2) The annual programme of the "Sir Thomas Hiley" includes dredging to the requirements of all northern harbour boards, with special consideration being given to emergent conditions. The known future requirements of these boards can be easily handled by this dredge. I can see no need to consider the use of the "S.D. Townsville" in the Cairns Harbour.

(3) I feel sure that the Cairns Harbour Board is more than competent to meet the hypothetical circumstances referred to by the honourable member.

54. MOORING CHARGES IN QUEENSLAND PORTS

Mr. Ahern, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Tourism and Marine Services—

(1) Will he justify the steep increases in mooring charges in Queensland ports, with particular reference to Mooloolaba Harbour?

(2) Why were percentage increases in some ports much greater than others and is it possible to share the costs of maintenance in harbours amongst a much wider category of port users?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The Government in the past 10 years has provided some \$10,000,000 in non-repayable grants for small-craft facilities in this State. I think the honourable member will agree that this policy has placed Queensland well ahead of any other State in this field. However, in view of the tightening money situation, Cabinet has decided that, in future, the provision of facilities in boat harbours entirely for the benefit of individual boat owners cannot be considered as a public responsibility. These facilities, which include mooring areas, moorings and adjacent land areas available for boating clubs and local services, will, in future, be financed from repayable loans to the extent of 50 per cent of their cost during the next two years and thereafter to the extent of 100 per cent of their cost.

In order to meet the cost of these repayable loans it has been necessary to place

a levy on all controlling authorities of \$100 per mooring on all moorings provided by the State. The extent to which controlling authorities pass this levy on to individual mooring holders or, indeed, other users of the boat harbour will be a matter for each controlling authority. Controlling authorities will continue to be responsible for supervision costs of the boat harbours and maintenance costs of moorings, mooring areas and adjacent land. These costs will vary from boat harbour to boat harbour and this could result in different charges in different ports.

I should add that the Government will continue to provide non-repayable funds for the construction and maintenance of purely public facilities including public boat ramps, public jetties, breakwaters in boat harbours, navigational aids and, where necessary, channels necessary to service public boat ramps and public jetties.

At 12 noon,

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 17, the House proceeded with Government business.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—FIFTH AND SIXTH ALLOTTED DAYS

Debate resumed from 7 September (see p. 290) on Mr. Brown's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba) (12.1 p.m.): I make my opening remarks in this debate with a great deal of sadness, because I wish to refer briefly to the passing of the wife of one of our colleagues, Mr. Roy Armstrong. I do so because Mrs. Armstrong passed away yesterday and I am the first speaker in the debate today. Naturally, all members of this Assembly pass on to Roy, his family and those closely associated with him their sympathy in the sad loss they have sustained. It is one of the occasions on which we all realise just what sacrifices members make, and the fact that Roy was here yesterday, attending to his electorate business, when his wife passed away shows that country members do have problems that are not always evident to the public.

Another matter that I wish to refer to also happened very recently. Earlier today, Mr. Speaker gave a ruling, after reading a letter from a solicitor, relative to some matters that are, I believe, of some public interest.

In the last three days honourable members have heard read in this Chamber three letters, and three separate matters have been declared sub judice. I am not questioning the right of Mr. Speaker to make such a decision; I am not questioning the correctness of his decision in accordance with the previous practice of this Assembly. What I am concerned about is where such a decision leaves this Parliament. There have been three letters in three days. If seven were

received in seven days, some smart person—and I use the word “smart” in the sense of trying to stop something—could, claiming that he had been defamed in some way or other, go to a solicitor and pay him a nominal fee and the solicitor, in good faith, would write such a letter. It could mean that eventually members would be prevented from discussing virtually any matter in the House.

In saying that, of course, I am not suggesting that the three letters that have been written were not written in good faith and perhaps with justification. I am only questioning whether Parliament can operate effectively under the system now obtaining. After all, many matters discussed in Parliament are of a controversial nature, and statements that should be answered are made in this Chamber. Once a writ such as the ones that have been issued in these three instances is issued and a ruling similar to that given by Mr. Speaker is given, it is impossible for members to carry out what I believe is their duty.

When legislation is before the House, or perhaps even in contemplation, if someone does not like very much what a member of Parliament says outside the Chamber, there is nothing to prevent him from taking out a writ. He might not wish to proceed with it; but the mere fact that the writ was issued could prevent legislation being amended in this Chamber. Surely that is not the way in which parliamentary democracy should operate.

Mr. Moore: The Speaker decides, and you know it.

Mr. HOUSTON: Till now the Speaker has had very little occasion to make a decision. I believe Mr. Speaker did what he did because of the precedents that have been established. What I am going to suggest to him through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that the whole matter of writs and their effect on Parliament be handed over to the Committee of Privileges, at least for investigation. What that committee does about it would be something for it to determine after investigating the whole situation and the possibilities and probabilities. In no way do I suggest that the three matters on which decisions have been made should be investigated—they are now history—but this Parliament has to lay down firm principles so that writs cannot be used as a method of stopping discussion on legislation or matters of major public importance.

I intend to quote from “*Erskine May’s Parliamentary Practice*”. I know that Mr. Speaker would be well aware of what I intend to quote, as probably you would be, too, Mr. Deputy Speaker. All honourable members should also be aware of these matters. For the benefit of new members I point out that “*Erskine May’s Parliamentary Practice*” is normally considered to be a guide to parliamentary conduct for all

Speakers in the British Commonwealth. Concerning questions to Ministers in the House of Commons, the Nineteenth Edition at page 333 states—

“By a Resolution of the House matters awaiting or under adjudication in a criminal court or a court martial, and matters set down for trial or otherwise brought before a civil court may not be referred to in any debate or question (see p. 427); though the House has more recently resolved to allow reference to be made to matters awaiting or under jurisdiction in all civil courts, subject to the discretion of the Chair, provided that there is no real and substantial danger of prejudice to the proceedings.”

In other words the Chair has the right to allow matters to go on. As I said, I believe the Chair here acted according to the precedents established in this House. While there were only isolated instances I had no quarrel at all. The important words there are “set down for trial or otherwise brought before a civil court”. Surely the issue of a writ is not setting a matter down for trial or otherwise bringing it before a court. After all, it is not known whether a writ is merely a stopper writ or whether the matter is going to be proceeded with. If it is a matter that is going to be proceeded with, let us get on with it and let the whole matter be cleared up. We know that a writ can hang over a person’s head for years; not only that, it could also hang over the head of this Parliament.

Mr. Lindsay: I think you are on the right track.

Mr. HOUSTON: I hope I am. Very rarely am I proved not to be.

I had not intended to raise this matter as a subject of a speech in the Address-in-Reply debate, but because of what has happened today I think now is the time to raise it. A couple of days ago we passed a motion confirming the appointment of the Committee of Privileges, and I believe that that is the appropriate body to which to pass the matter.

As to the content of speeches—let me again refer to “*Erskine May*”, where he states—

“The ban further applies to matters awaiting or under adjudication in a civil court from the time that the case has been set down for trial or otherwise brought before the court, as for example by notice of motion for an injunction.”

Again the point is that the matter is brought before the court. I suggest the Privileges Committee should look at this matter. I hope my suggestion will be passed on to Mr. Speaker so that the matter can be referred to that committee, and it can follow the normal course laid down by our own rules.

On behalf of the electors of Bulimba and myself, as is customary, in a meaningful way I express allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family. I say that with all the sincerity I have said it in other years.

No-one can question that. In recent times Her Majesty has been the subject of a good deal of controversy in Australia. However, I believe that as the Queen of Australia she is entitled to all the respect that such a high post commands.

In the Opening Speech the Governor referred to the affairs of the nation and in particular to the Australian Constitutional Convention. It is regretted that he chose the words used by him when referring to it. He said—

“Queensland will be represented at the Plenary Session of the Australian Constitutional Convention scheduled for Hobart later this year.

“My advisers have assured me that the interests of the people of Queensland, as a unit of the Federation, will be fully protected.”

I suggest that his advisers have not advised him correctly.

Surely the Queensland delegates should represent a cross-section of the community; but that will not be so. Without going into polling figures—Queensland's representation at the Constitutional Convention to be held later this year will be based not on political opinions held by the people of this State, not on the realities of life as a whole, but on the numbers in this Parliament.

Queensland will have 12 representatives at that convention, of whom 10 will come from the Government and two from the Opposition. The other States, no matter what size the Government majority in their Parliaments might be, will be sending six Government members and six Opposition members. That has happened previously in relation to both the Federal Parliament and the Parliaments of the other States. Queensland, of course, will not follow suit.

Perhaps as former Leader of the Opposition I was at fault in agreeing to representation from Queensland on the basis of seven Government members and five Opposition members. Perhaps the Opposition should have fought the issue at that time. However, as we were keen to see the commencement of the Australian Constitutional Convention and the introduction of amendments to the Constitution, rather than rock the boat, I, and my Opposition colleagues, accepted a 7-to-5 representation. That is vastly different, of course, from representation by 10 Government members and two Opposition members.

If the other States were to do as Queensland is doing, the Constitutional Convention would be lop-sided with a vast majority of delegates representing the one political view.

I regret the adoption by this Parliament of 10-to-2 representation. It is not too late for the Government to alter our representation to a more equitable basis. At the worst, the State should have a 7-to-5 representation, but we would, of course, like to see both sides represented equally, each with six delegates.

It should not be forgotten that, when it suited the Queensland Government to do so,

it isolated Queensland from the other States and the Commonwealth at the last Constitutional Convention. Queensland was not officially represented at the previous meeting. Queensland had no voice in discussions on the many matters of grave importance to our federation and the welfare of the nation that were raised. Queensland was unrepresented because legislation was passed through this House, on numbers, to divorce the State from a consideration of matters raised at that meeting. That is to be regretted.

As I have said, the people of Queensland as a whole will not be represented at the forthcoming meeting. To support that contention, I have used polling figures, and I have done that for the reason that matters raised at the Constitutional Convention are, in many instances, based on political philosophies. The Whitlam Federal Government was blamed for Queensland's decision not to attend the previous meeting of the convention. Government spokesmen ignored the fact that representatives from other States would be attending. On that occasion the Government made a very poor and wrong decision and I trust that it will be rectified before the meeting in Hobart so that through parliamentary representation the people of Queensland will have a say.

Mr. Frawley: You cannot expect an even number, or even seven to five.

Mr. HOUSTON: Why not? That is the voting pattern.

Mr. Frawley: It could be twelve to two.

Mr. HOUSTON: The voting pattern at the last State election was certainly not 12 to two or 10 to two. The Senate figures showed quite clearly the difference in the voting pattern.

I accept the Governor's Opening Speech as a speech of the Government. He said, “My advisers have assured me . . .”

On the basis of the numerical representation, I am saying that his advisers are wrong in giving that assurance.

Over the years I have noted a marked deterioration in the attitude of members of Parliament to persons outside Parliament. It seems to be normal procedure for a member who does not like what someone has said or done to decry or berate the person rather than criticise the decision. Time and again during the term of office of the former Labor Government, the Prime Minister and his Ministers were called various names that would not be acceptable outside this House. Trade union leaders and others are attacked in the same way. Only a few days ago, Government members, when referring to a dispute between a union and the Government, were not content to argue on the facts of the case. In such instances the union leader's character is belted around. Surely that is not the way for Parliament to operate. If we adopt such standards, how

can we expect the public to look on us as responsible people and legislators with a sense of feeling for people's welfare?

Mr. Frawley: I am glad that the honourable member for Archerfield is listening, because he is the greatest character assassin of all.

Mr. HOUSTON: When the honourable member for Archerfield speaks, he will be quite capable of dealing with the honourable member and anyone else who wishes to criticise. Let there be no doubt about that.

All Government members would surely admit that personal attacks have got completely out of hand. I trust that they will cease, because they are not in the interests of the State or Parliament.

In referring to trade union leaders, we should remember that they are elected under constitutions adopted by the industrial tribunal in this State.

An Opposition Member: Tell the Premier that.

Mr. HOUSTON: Most of my remarks are directed at Cabinet Ministers who are led by the Premier, because they are the persons who answer questions and make statements.

Mr. Frawley: What about Hughie Hamilton? He would be a traitor to this State; he even admits it.

Mr. HOUSTON: Let the honourable member say that outside the House and we will see if he can prove his allegation.

Mr. Frawley: He is a Commo.

Mr. HOUSTON: There is a great difference between a person holding a political philosophy or view and his being a traitor to the nation. So far as I am concerned, that is a legal political party and he has as much right to his views as the honourable member.

I am concerned not about individuals, but about the attitude in Queensland to trade union leaders. They are elected on the voice of their members under rules registered in the Industrial Commission. If a union member does not attend a meeting or does not carry out his responsibility to cast a vote at elections, that is his fault. Just as this Parliament expects the laws it passes to be carried out, whether as individuals we agree with them or not, so, too, a union leader is entitled to expect that the views of the union are carried out. After all, we have plenty of evidence of unions making constitutionally correct decisions and criticism being voiced in this House not about the correctness or incorrectness of the decision, but of the person concerned. I believe that this is something that must be corrected, because it is not in the interests of the people of this State.

In Western Australia, a motion was carried with regard to the Governor. We saw the Queensland Deputy Premier get up in

this Chamber and wave his arms around in horror. We heard him say that the Australian Labor Party in Queensland was going to get rid of the position of Governor and that it did not believe in democracy, the Royal Family, and all of those other things. That is complete nonsense and is absolutely untrue.

There have been many times in the history of this State when the Governor has been overseas and therefore not in attendance at Government House. Also, there have been periods between the completion by one Governor of his term of office and the appointment of his successor. On every one of those occasions, the State has functioned correctly and well. We have had a Lieutenant-Governor, who invariably has been the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Sir Alan Mansfield, who was Chief Justice, became the Governor of this State, and he brought to his office tremendous legal knowledge. So that it is wrong to say that a State cannot operate without a Governor, because it can. I agree that the State does need a nominal head for Executive Council meetings and determinations—and no-one denies that—but he could be the person holding the high office of Chief Justice of the State.

One of the problems associated with the Governorship in any State is that Governors are appointed as adults. I suppose that when we leave this Parliament, provided it is not through death, we will retain our political views. Any person who, through the years, has the welfare of the nation at heart develops political views and philosophies. Those two things cannot be divorced. The Royal Family is in a completely different situation. Unlike ordinary citizens, who are involved during their lifetime with most of the decisions made by Parliament, the members of that family are not. When members of the Labor Party question the need for a particular position, they do so with those reasons in mind, and not with the idea of breaking down our democratic system in any way. They are merely saying that there are other ways of doing these things.

Let me pass on to some of the matters raised in the Governor's Opening Speech. One was the development of the State. No-one denies that dams, bridges, roads and schools have to be built. But that type of thing could be said by anybody who is interested in the State and knows anything about the State at all. We all know that these things must be done. However, what concerns me more is what is not contained in the Governor's Opening Speech. One of the things I expected was a reference to unemployment; I would have thought that the Governor's advisers would have informed him of steps they intended to take to minimise it.

Unemployment is nothing new but in latter years it has gradually become worse. The first step was the reduction in overtime, followed by fewer opportunities for married

women who wanted to return to the work-force. Single women who left their jobs to marry could not return to the work-force as readily as they could previously. Only a few weeks ago the stage had been reached where 1,600 school-leavers were still looking for their first jobs. Surely the Governor could have been given some advice concerning the employment of young people. Times have changed, but the Governor's Opening Speech was similar to Opening Speeches delivered year after year.

It is now estimated that very shortly 300,000 school-leavers will be looking for jobs. What are their prospects? What opportunities will there be for them to become part of the work-force? In addition to being concerned that they will not be able to obtain a job and earn their living, which is their entitlement on completing their formal education, I am worried about what they will do with their energies if there is no work for them. Going to work is for young people not only the means of earning money and advancing themselves and this nation; it is the means of learning to discipline themselves.

Mr. Warner: You are on the right track now.

Mr. HOUSTON: I wish honourable members opposite were a little more sincere when they speak to their own Government on these matters. It has to be persuaded on them. All that I and other Opposition members can do is to say what we believe. It is up to the Government to do something. It is in fact doing nothing at all for young people.

Mr. Warner: How would you go about it?

Mr. HOUSTON: Let the Government get off the Treasury benches and we will soon show you. There is plenty that could be done to get the country out of the wilderness. One thing the Government should do is stop kidding itself that everything is all right.

I should now like to quote a few comments that I read only yesterday. I ask the House to listen to this story.

Mr. Gibbs: Is it a funny story?

Mr. HOUSTON: The honourable member may think it is. I propose to quote from "Manufacturers' Monthly" of August 1976. I suppose that is comic-cuts for the honourable member for Albert.

Mr. Gibbs: I didn't think you read that quality stuff.

Mr. HOUSTON: I do, as a matter of fact. But I have a great advantage over the honourable member for Albert—I can read. The honourable member has to listen to what others tell him.

Mr. Gibbs: You are a lot older so you have had more practice.

Mr. HOUSTON: Well, I do not look it. At any rate, let me now refer to this article in "Manufacturers' Monthly". It reads—

"'Sharp fall in inflation rate,' 'Business warming up say manufacturers,' 'Continuing improvement in industrial record,' 'Deficit smallest for three years,' 'GDP figures point upturn in economic activity.'

"These are the headlines which Australians would like to see."

As I do not hear any interjections, I assume Government members are quite happy about that. The article continues—

"They are in fact headlines which are coming out of the country which such a short time ago was reported to be sinking into the North Sea—Britain."

Britain is a country governed by a Labour Government and it is starting to get out of trouble. This is happening because the Labour Government knows how to tackle the financial situation.

The trouble in Australia, of course, is that the National and Liberal Parties were frightened of the Australian Labor Government. They knew that it would do the job, so they cooked up all kinds of things to scare the people and to put the Labor Government out of office. As a result, the economic situation is getting worse.

Let us have a look at the editorial in the same magazine and see what the manufacturers think of this great Government honourable members opposite support, the Government they went out and told the people would overcome all their problems.

Mr. Warner: Did that come from "Impact"?

Mr. HOUSTON: No, it comes from the "Manufacturers Monthly". As a matter of fact, the only thing I know about "Impact" is that the honourable member tells me he reads it; but the editorial in "Manufacturers Monthly" certainly was not written for my benefit.

Mr. Casey: It is a good Tory rag.

Mr. HOUSTON: Yes, I would say it is from the other articles which appear in it. The headnote to the editorial reads—

"Mr. Fraser throws the ball back to industry."

The editorial itself reads—

"Recent ministerial pronouncements only affirm growing strains between the Government and the business community over their respective roles in seeking a return to the good old times.

"The Government believes business is simply just not enterprising enough and is displaying apathy towards the soon-to-be-found commercial opportunities. Business, on the other hand, thinks the Government has been altogether too savage in its pruning of both the private and public sectors."

The last paragraph is most interesting, and I hope honourable members opposite take it to heart. It reads—

“The Government statements are little more than words—and to many businessmen, words are what the Government is best at. But perhaps the businessman is taking his cue from the Government, which is withdrawing from many fields, and is doing its best to pass the buck to the States for many others.”

And that is the problem today. Honourable members opposite talk about federalism and all the rest, but all their Government is doing is passing responsibility to others. They are passing it to the manufacturing industries, but the manufacturing industries have said clearly that they do not want it. They want help; they do not want words. No money is being given to the States to do the job, but we are going to be asked to bear the responsibility.

I want to get back to what concerns me most, and that is employment opportunities for young people. I suppose it will be said—it has already been said by way of interjection—that they will become dole bludgers. Of course, the fact is that from my knowledge of them, young people want to work; they want to get on with the job. But they have to be given the opportunity to get on with the job. A number of people suggest that they should be self-reliant. How can a young person be self-reliant when he has not been taught even the rudiments of providing for himself? Most people overlook the tremendous break of leaving school and the protection of home—the protection that comes with being a student at school where things are virtually regulated—and going into the work-force where he comes under the control of the superintendent or whoever happens to be in charge of the industry in which he is working. These are the things we have to worry about and I believe that the Government has to take initiatives to make sure that our young people are given opportunities to work.

Mr. Frawley: If what you say is correct, how come you have only 11 men in the House?

Mr. HOUSTON: The reason is, of course, that the people believed the propaganda honourable members opposite disseminated. Let us wait for the next election. Honourable members opposite are good arguers; they are good story-tellers, but we won the recent Port Curtis by-election.

Mr. Moore: Fifty-two per cent!

Mr. HOUSTON: Not bad at all. That result shows the high regard in which our candidate was held, and also the high regard in which the previous member was held.

An Honourable Member interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: Of course, we do not hear about the 11 per cent the Liberals got.

Mr. Wright: Mr. Moore led the campaign.

Mr. HOUSTON: As a matter of fact, he did remarkably well to get 11 per cent, if that is what he did get. I am asked what I think we should do. I believe we have to get on with major projects. When we check which sections of the work-force are out of work we find that the unemployed come from all walks of life—architects, tradesmen and labourers. I believe that in the future the Federal and State Governments have to go ahead with major projects which will absorb labour while providing much-needed revenue as an incentive for private enterprise. I think there is one way—

Mr. Moore interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order!

Mr. HOUSTON: If the honourable member will be quiet for a while, I am sure he will learn something. Then he will be able to use my speech in his electorate and say it is his.

Electrification of the suburban railway system is under way, and I regret that Government Ministers have been making statements that the electrification programme will have to be slowed down. It would be wrong to do that. Rail electrification must go ahead. It is a major project that will not only assist the development of the city of Brisbane but also assist young people to get work. It may be some time before they can be absorbed into the work-force, but the project is already under way. If the statement by the Minister for Transport is correct, plans have been made here and there and certain contracts have been let. Others should be let. However, I do not think that is enough, and an attempt must also be made to look after those who are associated with the early design and planning work.

Later in this session the House will be discussing the development of the port at the mouth of the Brisbane River. I do not think that many honourable members will be opposed to that project—certainly not to the concept of a new port there. Some of us visited the proposed site with the Minister, and I appreciated the opportunity of seeing it. Although I thanked the Minister at the time for taking me, I again say “Thank you” in this Chamber. The question I ask is: How are the heavy vehicles—and there will be thousands of them—to get to the port at the mouth of the river? The answer should be clear to all honourable members—build either a bridge or a tunnel on the lower reaches of the river near Hemmant.

Mr. Lindsay: A good idea.

Mr. HOUSTON: The answer should be obvious to all honourable members. If the Government says, “We will do it”, and goes ahead with the project, hundreds of people will be engaged on it immediately and in a short time thousands of people will be engaged on it. Such a crossing must be built, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so let us get on and do the job.

I heard someone say that I am older than he is. Not only am I older; I have much more experience of what occurs when development takes place. As a young man, I remember looking for a job when a Labor Government of this State—at different times, but conditions were similar—went ahead with the building of two bridges—the Grey Street Bridge, as it was then called, and the Story Bridge. At that time the financial wizards said, “We can’t afford it.”; in fact, the Grey Street Bridge was referred to as a white elephant. Those bridges were built not only to provide crossings over the river but also to provide jobs for people who were badly in need of them.

I point out that most of the work of bridge construction and railway construction will not be carried out by employees of the Public Service. Most of it will be done by subcontractors and private enterprise, if I may use that term. I do not believe in handing out money and saying, “Here is some money, son. Do nothing with it.” But if money is used in the way that I suggest the State will have something that will be there for all time. I believe that these two projects—the electrification of the suburban railway system and the construction of the Gateway Bridge, as the proposal is called—will create the work that is so badly needed.

Mr. Frawley: What about the highway to Redcliffe?

Mr. HOUSTON: I am not arguing against any project. I am simply saying that the two projects to which I have referred are needed urgently, and they will be needed even more urgently as time goes by.

Mr. Frawley: You misled the people of Redcliffe about the highway.

Mr. HOUSTON: As to the highway—I have said before and I will say again that if Labor had been returned to office in 1972, Redcliffe would have had its highway now. The honourable member cannot point to one promise that I made then from which I have backed away. A railway line to Redcliffe is an absolute necessity.

Mr. Frawley: Of course it is.

Mr. HOUSTON: If the honourable member for Murrumba can prove to the Government that it is more important than the Gateway Bridge, good luck to him! At least it will create work.

I am pleased that the Minister for Transport is in the House, because I am sure he will agree with me that tremendous problems will arise in getting materials and containers to the new port from the industrial area on the northern side of the river. Let us get on with the job now. That is the only way development and employment will be promoted.

As I said earlier, what worries me is not what was in the Governor’s speech but what was not in it. I know that he said the Government was going to do many things.

The whole point is that we have to get on with the job. What is of major importance is not so much reducing the inflation rate but increasing employment. The only way we can cut down the inflation rate and get people back to work is by giving them money that they can spend without fear—money that they do not have to put away in the bank because they are worried about what is going to happen tomorrow. They want money they can spend the way they believe they are entitled to spend it. If we can do that we will be doing the State and nation a great service.

Mr. HARTWIG (Callide) (12.40 p.m.): I rise to make my contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate, which I consider to be a very important part of the present sittings. I congratulate Sir Colin Hannah on the very efficient way he carried out his duty in the opening of the session. I wish to associate the constituents of Callide with my message of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen.

I take the opportunity to congratulate the new members—the honourable members for Clayfield and Port Curtis—on their election to this Parliament.

At this time I pay tribute to the work of the National Party at its respective stages of management. Some years ago the name was changed from “Country Party” to “National Party”. I pay tribute to chaps like Bob Sparkes, who has given a lifetime of dedication to the party. I also pay tribute to the management committee and our own local branches. I refer particularly to the 10 very strong branches, with over 1,000 members, in Callide. At the head of the electorate council in Callide we have a new chairman, Dennis Hinton of Biloela, and a new secretary in the person of Keith Glasson of Biloela. I pay tribute to the work of the former electorate chairman, George Robertson, and his good wife Pat, for the amount of assistance they gave me. Only last Saturday, at a very well-attended electoral council meeting, we honoured former Senator Ellis Lawrie of Westwood. For over 11 years he served the State very well indeed as a senator. As a matter of fact many automatic exchanges and country telephone extensions bear testimony to his dedication to country people throughout Queensland. I am indebted to Ellis Lawrie for his ready advice and assistance at all times.

In my next remarks I do not want to be thought to be detracting from either the mover or the seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. We have a lot of pomp and ceremony associated with the opening of Parliament. Many State dignitaries and other important guests are invited to witness the official opening. His Excellency always renders a very interesting Opening Speech which has been painstakingly prepared. His Opening Speech is based on what the Government hopes to achieve in the future for the welfare of the State and its inhabitants. But what do we do then? We

do a complete about-face and ask a new member, who could be excused for not knowing at that time what Parliament was all about, to move the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. Casey: Do you think you could have done a better job?

Mr. HARTWIG: I feel that there are many back-benchers who would do the occasion more justice; that is my point. Quite a number of senior back-benchers have never had the opportunity of moving the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. My comments are not designed to detract from the speech made by the new member. The point I am making is that the moving of the motion is a very important occasion and should be viewed in that light. A new member who, as I have said, has not had sufficient time to acquaint himself with the ramifications of Parliament should not be called upon to move the motion.

Since the opening of the previous Parliament we have witnessed many changes in this State. The Premier and our coalition Government should be paid a tribute for the magnificent way in which we have handled the economy of the State.

I listened intently to the speech of the honourable member for Bulimba. I thought to myself, "What a great Leader of the Opposition he would make!" He tried to put a little bit of life into his speech by advocating policies that are those of the National and Liberal Parties.

A year or so ago no member of the Labor Party would have made such a speech. The Opposition had no thought whatever for the unemployment situation; nor did it show any concern for school-leavers. Today, however, the Opposition expresses concern at the present situation. In fact the Leader of the Opposition has even expressed concern for the primary producer. What utter hypocrisy! Having supported the actions of Mr. Whitlam, who slaughtered the primary industries of the State and the nation, the member for Lytton must be branded a hypocrite if he expresses concern for the future of primary producers.

I want to deal now with Parliament. I contend that Parliament should not sit for only 15 or 18 days in a period of six months. A lengthy recess sometimes means that members must wait for long periods before they can raise matters of concern to their electors. They are not able to do so at an early opportunity.

As to legislation, we seem to follow the practice of cramming a lot of it into the latter part of the year. We sit long and late hours and are not able to do justice to all the legislation that is brought forward.

The vastness of our State demands that we look at the possibility of appointing junior Ministers to assist in carrying out the responsibilities of all portfolios. Queensland occupies one-fifth of the total area of

Australia and is the most decentralised State in the Commonwealth. It is not possible for a Minister to apply himself to his duties when they embrace the whole of the State. In addition, of course, a Minister must represent his electorate. A Minister should have the assistance of a junior Minister.

The appointment of junior Ministers would show the people of Queensland that this Government has adopted a positive approach towards the future planning of the administration and economy of Queensland. It would also give back-benchers an early opportunity to be appointed to positions in which they would gain an intimate knowledge of the workings of all departments. They would, of course, be answerable to their senior Ministers.

I do not think it is right that a man who has devoted his time and study to a certain sphere of Government activity should be appointed to a portfolio with which he is not familiar. If junior Ministers were appointed, they would take over or assist in handling a portfolio.

I must acknowledge the contribution made by Sir Gordon Chalk to the State. He left the State Government in a very good financial position. I endorse the view of many honourable members that he did a great job. I look forward to the newly appointed Treasurer (Mr. Knox) applying his knowledge to his new portfolio. I extend to all Cabinet Ministers many thanks for the co-operation and the assistance they have extended to me as the member for Callide.

I should point out that the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads has assisted me in getting the Monto-Thangool Road completed. The bridge which will be started soon over Limestone Creek at Bondoola has been urgently needed for a number of years.

Thanks to the Minister for Health we are getting a new hospital at Yeppoon costing about \$2,000,000. For quite some time I have fought very hard for this hospital. It is a tribute to the Hospitals Board.

I thank the Minister for Education for the new opportunity school and the new pre-school at Biloela, the new school at Keppel Sands and the new classrooms at Emu Park, Biloela and Yeppoon.

Although I have not always agreed with what the Minister for Primary Industries has done, I am prepared to abide by a majority decision and I believe that he has acted as well as he could in handling his portfolio.

People in my electorate are indebted to the Minister for Works and Housing for the many renovations carried out on schools and septic blocks at Gogano, Mt. Murchison, Ridgeland and Cawarral. I thank the Minister for his assistance and for the Housing Commission homes at Biloela and Thangool.

The Minister for Water Resources is to be congratulated on the construction of Stage II of the Callide Dam, which is very important to our district.

Following cyclone "David", which struck on 19 January and destroyed the Rosslyn Bay Boat Harbour, the then Minister for Tourism and Marine Services (Mr. Newbery) visited the area within a few days and arranged for money to be allocated to get the harbour operational so that fishermen and small-boat owners could use it once again.

We do not yet know what Mr. Iwasaki plans to do at Yeppoon, but personally I believe that, if he has \$50,000,000 to spend on a project, it should be welcomed by the Government and all people in Queensland. The injection of \$50,000,000 into Queensland's economy at this time would indeed be welcome. I agree with the remarks made by the honourable member for Bulimba about the need for jobs for people, particularly young people. We must try to provide employment opportunities in all areas and so stop the drift of people to the major cities and towns.

I voice my gratitude to the Minister for Transport for the work done in upgrading the Earlsfield-Callide mine railway link. Callide won a very important coal contract with Comalco at Gladstone. I do not agree with the proposal to carry coal from Callide to Gladstone to extend the major power station at Gladstone. I believe that the two 275 MW sets that are going to Gladstone could have been accommodated easily at Callide. I do not believe for one moment that we should put all of our eggs into one basket in the generation of power. Surely history has taught us that in a vast and far-flung State like Queensland, where a power station requires every bucket of coal to be hauled by railway or some other form of transport, it would not be wise at this stage to place all generation of power in the one area. I feel that in this regard Callide was ready-made with ample water and wonderful coal for steam turbines.

Whilst I am on this subject, I should like to refer to the legislation that will be introduced during this session regarding the electricity-supply industry. In 1967, when I was chairman of the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board, I made several trips to Canberra to try to convince the Commonwealth Government to assist financially in the construction of a major power station in Queensland. It was after many trips and assurances from us that the whole of Queensland was to benefit from the construction of this major power station—not Central Queensland or Northern Queensland, but the whole of Queensland. As a matter of fact, the \$80,000,000-odd was to be provided only on the ground that the Southern Electric Authority would be the constructing authority of that major power station and that the great

majority of the output of that station would be reticulated in the south-eastern corner of this State—and that includes Brisbane.

I fought like hell to have that power station built for Central Queensland. If we had been able to finance such a project, we could have drawn industry to Central Queensland and away from the major cities, such as Brisbane and Sydney, because we could have offered a cheaper tariff than would have been available using coal supplied from West Moreton to the Brisbane power station. I should say that Central Queensland, rather than Brisbane, should have been annoyed that this power station was going to be built and that we would not reap the benefit of using cheaper coal, resulting in the cheaper generation of electricity.

However, the legislation will deal with the whole of the area and will aim at the standardisation of electricity tariffs. Also, it will aim at doing away with about 17 boards and replacing them with seven distribution authorities. Surely this would be for the benefit of everybody, because the electricity would be purchased in bulk from this huge power station situated at Gladstone.

I now want to comment on the condition of roads in Central Queensland. They could only be termed atrocious. It is beyond me why the Yeppoon-Rockhampton road, which carries an average of 3,000 vehicles a day, has been allowed to remain in such a poor state year after year. I guarantee that, car for car, no other road in Queensland is in such a bad condition.

Mr. Powell: Come off it.

Mr. HARTWIG: The honourable member should have a traffic count carried out in his own area.

I refer also to the missing link between Gladstone and Biloela. I would hope to have the support of the honourable member for Port Curtis in this particular matter because it is a major stumbling-block in the trade between those two cities. Biloela is a fast-developing centre which depends upon fuel from Gladstone being transported by road over this very rough section of the Rainbow Range. The Minister for Main Roads has promised me that work on this section will be commenced towards the end of this financial year.

[*Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.15 p.m.*]

Mr. HARTWIG: Before the luncheon recess I covered many subjects and I now want to deal briefly with other issues important to my electorate. Callide is very diversified, particularly in primary industries, in which I include extensive coal-mining operations. It contains magnificent herds of beef cattle. Dairying is carried on, and the district also produces cotton, poultry, pigs, pineapples, fish and all types of grains. It has a good range of secondary industries such as meatworks, a power station, brickworks, a cement works, timber mills and a cotton ginny.

I should like to place before the House a few facts concerning primary industries, which are decaying at a rapidly increasing rate. In the last seven years the number of dairy cattle has decreased from 758,000 to 515,000 in 1975. Butter production has fallen from a peak of 22,784 tonnes in 1969-70 to 10,360 tonnes in 1974, the last year for which figures are available. That represents a decrease of about 120 per cent.

Honourable members may have noticed that the manager of the Queensland Butter Marketing Board (Mr. Coombs) recently advocated importing 1,000 tonnes of butter from New Zealand to keep faith with our export market. It is a shocking state of affairs that primary industry has slumped to this state. In the year ended May 1975 cheese to the value of \$10,800,000 was imported, whilst in the year ended May 1976 the corresponding value was \$13,500,000.

The beef industry has never recovered from the days when Mr. Whitlam said, "I'll get the price of meat down." At present Queensland has an enormous herd of 10,363,000 head of beef cattle. The production of meat in Queensland last year was the highest ever recorded. The figure was 560,599 tonnes, which is 15 per cent above the figure for the previous record year of 1974-75. Total meat exports in carcass weight from Queensland for the year ended April 1975 were 382,147 tonnes, which was an increase of 42 per cent over the figure of 268,000 tonnes for the previous 12 months.

I quote the following figures to show how meat prices have fallen:—

	1973-74 (Cannon Hill average)	1974-75 (Latest figures)
	\$	\$
Fat bullocks	211	97
Fat cows	130	49
Fat steers	164	73
Fat heifers	109	43
Fat vealers	85	31

At a recent Gracemere sale cows sold for \$2 a head.

As a result of the devastating effect that prices are having on the beef industry, I suggest and request that a full-scale royal commission be held into the pastoral industry. I believe that the time is well overdue for finding out what has happened to the dollars that cattlemen should be receiving. Properties today have reached saturation point with their debts; many landowners cannot borrow more money. I call on the Federal Government to set up a nation-wide rural bank to take over mortgages so that ownership of properties does not revert to pastoral houses and private trading banks, which presently hold all mortgages. They cover land and stock.

A little while ago an overdraft was a sum against the total of one's assets. Overnight, as it were, it has become an intolerable and unrepayable debt. Cattlemen are saddled with

high interest rates, in many instances reaching 13 and 14 per cent. Why is it so? I believe the fact that the total voters in the pastoral industry in Australia represent 4 per cent of the voting population has quite a bit to do with it. Cattlemen are arguing between themselves. They are trying to create a cattlemen's union, which will then submit a minimum price scheme to the Government. I trust that this would be approved by the Queensland Cabinet and then submitted to the Federal Minister for Primary Industry and to all other State Ministers. It might not be what we all want, but it will certainly be an improvement if we can get a minimum floor price scheme operating. As meat is so valuable throughout the world as a protein supplement, it is obvious why other nations buy Australian cattle. Recently in Townsville I saw 100 head of cattle being loaded onto an aircraft. The cost of flying those cattle from Townsville to Baghdad was \$50,000. I could not imagine that happening in reverse at the present time.

Graziers must have a market for their cattle and they must have faith in the future of the beef industry. It is interesting for honourable members to note what the beef industry has contributed to the over-all economy by way of export earnings. From 1970 to 1975 the value of beef exported from Australia was \$2,304,328,000. In addition to that we should take into account the value of the beef consumed locally. I believe we have a just cause for the Commonwealth Government, aided by the States, to set up a rural bank to lengthen the repayment terms of loans, to reduce interest rates and, for goodness sake, to rescue a tremendous industry which has contributed millions and millions of dollars to the national economy.

Just recently a large cattle property was advertised in Brisbane newspapers for sale. It was situated very close to my electorate. The owners put a price of \$15 per acre on it, which would be a reasonable figure, and at auction the highest offer made was \$4 an acre. Naturally the property was not sold. That is the position at the present time and I think it is enough to justify doing something. I suggest a royal commission. We have to try to rescue the beef industry. For goodness sake, we have paid lip-service to that aim for long enough; let us do something positive to save the great cattle industry.

The cotton industry is another which plays a very prominent part in the economy of the Callide Valley. We have our own cotton gin and the cotton industry is one that is increasing its output.

I would like to make reference to an article in "The Courier-Mail" with the heading, "Rail fares rise tipped". I want to go on record as saying that any increase in rail freights will spell the death-knell of thousands of primary producers and small businessmen and embarrass many, many other people throughout this great State.

I would just like to mention the amount paid by way of freights by pineapple growers

at Yeppoon last year. A total of 110 growers contributed \$336,000 in rail freights, which works out at \$3,300 per grower. An increase of 15 per cent in freight rates would cost each grower \$500 or more and I do not believe the industry could absorb such an increase. So I appeal to the Treasurer to have a good, long, hard look at the imposition of such an increase before any decision is made.

I should like to mention, too, the effect on the lucerne growers in the Callide Valley. Before the last increase in freights, it cost \$37.50 to rail—I repeat “rail”—a tonne of lucerne hay from Biloela to Mt. Isa. With the increase last year, the freight increased from \$37.50 a tonne to \$52.50 a tonne, and 15 per cent on that figure would bring it into the \$60-plus bracket.

At present, Biloela growers are selling lucerne hay for \$120 a tonne, which would make it absolutely uneconomical to send it to places such as Hughenden, Charters Towers, Einasleigh, Cairns, Townsville, Longreach, Alpha and Clermont, many of which now draw on the Callide Valley to meet their requirements of hay for general animal husbandry and management.

Let us consider now the return to the growers. In 1971-72 there were 1,649 acres under lucerne in the Callide Valley, and that acreage produced 7,408 tonnes. Last year the acreage had dwindled to 1,300, from which 5,692 tonnes were produced. Before the last increase in freights, growers were making \$7.11 a tonne after clearing expenses. Under the new conditions and with added costs of production, their return has fallen to 88c a tonne. That is shocking, and it is something that must be taken into account.

I should like to put before the House a few figures showing what has happened in the last 25 years. The population of Australia has increased from 8,000,000 to 13,000,000. Real national production increased from \$5,100 million to \$17,000 million, and output per man improved by nearly 80 per cent. By 1975 the number of cattle increased from 14,600,000 to 31,000,000; the number of sheep increased from 13,000,000 to 145,000,000; iron ore production increased from 2,400,000 to 93,000,000 tonnes.

The problems facing local authorities are also very important. Because of the depressed state of the beef and dairying industries, many local authorities will not be able to collect their full revenue from rates this financial year. Rates have risen dramatically in most shires. Councils have been caught up in spiralling cost increases, and rates have had to be increased accordingly. The Livingstone Shire faces a particular problem because it is on the coast. About 80 per cent of the people there at week-ends are not ratepayers. It is very good to have them there, but the Livingstone Shire Council has the responsibility of providing amenities and ensuring that water, electricity and other necessities are available for tourists when

they arrive at the coast. Somebody has to pay for that, and the over-all level of rates within the shire must be causing concern. In my opinion, saturation point has already been reached and the permanent residents should not be weighed down with the burden of higher rates.

Before concluding, I wish to refer particularly to the Government's abolition of death duties.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: All you want to do is create a bunyip aristocracy.

Mr. HARTWIG: I do not agree with such unwarranted attacks. The Premier is to be commended for his stand on the abolition of death duties. How it is to be financed is the only thing that worries me, and I hope it will not be financed in such a way that people in outlying areas will be further handicapped. They are not making a living now, and many people are at their wit's end in deciding what they should do. If they walk off their properties, what happens to them? If meat prices do not increase, I suggest that the Department of Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service will have more national parks available to it shortly.

I am proud to be a Queenslander. This Government has done much towards decentralisation. The general economy of this State stands head and shoulders over that of any other State in Australia.

Mr. ALISON (Maryborough) (2.30 p.m.): I rise with pleasure to take part in the Address-in-Reply debate. I reaffirm my loyalty and that of my electorate to Her Majesty the Queen. I take the opportunity to congratulate His Excellency Sir Colin Hannah and Lady Hannah on the grace and dignity with which they carry out their rather arduous duties throughout the length and breadth of the State. Quite obviously Sir Colin has the welfare of the State at heart, and does his best for Queensland.

I congratulate the honourable member for Clayfield (Mr. Ivan Brown) and the honourable member for Port Curtis (Mr. William Prest) on their election to this Parliament. After listening to their maiden speeches in this debate, I am sure they will be a credit to their respective electorates.

I am confident that there are now more people throughout the length and breadth of Australia with genuine feelings of loyalty to the Crown through the Governor-General than there have been for many years. That is a directly consequence of the controversy or public debate surrounding the office of Governor-General and the Senate, more particularly the reserve powers of the Governor-General. It can now be seen by any thinking, rational person who reads the newspapers and listens to people who know something about the matter that the Governor-General does in fact have certain reserve powers. The fact that those reserve powers

have not been used for many years does not make the power to sack the Government of the day null and void.

Mr. Whitlam has accused the Governor-General of being deceitful, dishonest and dishonourable. He has used many adjectives which he in his position should not have used. We well remember Mr. Whitlam's infamous statement when exhorting his socialist followers, anarchists and Communists—"Maintain your rage". It was an extremely inflammable statement in the circumstances under which he made it. His statement on the steps of the Federal House of Parliament will go down in history. He said, "Well may you say, 'God Save the Queen!', but nothing will save the Governor-General." One would expect a more temperate statement from a less-educated person in the street. The fact was that he was quite beside himself and quite irrational. He seems to have become quite unbalanced over the last few months. There is no evidence that he is settling down at all and accepting the facts as they are, and accepting the will of the people. On 13 December the people showed quite plainly where they stood on the matter.

It is the Governor-General who has been treated shamefully, not Mr. Whitlam. Mr. Whitlam is trying to give the impression that he has been badly done by; that he has been badly and sadly mistreated by the Governor-General, by Malcolm Fraser and by the Senate. He continues to trot around Australia trying to get the message across that he should still be the Prime Minister, that he was wrongly sacked, and that the people, too, were all wrong on 13 December. I maintain that it is the Governor-General who has been treated shamefully by Whitlam and his colleagues in the former Labor Government last year. I also maintain that it is Mr. Whitlam who has been deceitful, dishonest and dishonourable.

I should like to refer briefly to just one of the disgraces or scandals that arose during the three sad years of the Whitlam Government. This incident shows up the absolute hypocrisy of the parliamentary leader of the Federal A.L.P. I refer to what is now commonly known as the loans affair. As I understand it, when the then Attorney-General, Senator Murphy, requested the Governor-General to sign the Executive Minute authorising the then Federal Government to raise the \$4,000 million (or was it \$8,000 million?), to be repaid over 20 years, he advised the Governor-General that this was a loan of temporary nature. Apparently the Governor-General accepted the then Attorney-General's advice and authorised this loan-raising. What shocking hypocrisy it is for Mr. Whitlam to continue to accuse Sir John Kerr of being dishonest, dishonourable and deceitful after he and his cronies put it over Sir John Kerr by giving him certain advice.

I could go on ad nauseam and mention the Khemlani affair, the Morosi affair and so

on, but I do not think any good point would be served by doing so. I simply want to give the illustration of the loans affair. It is worth repeating; we should not forget it. That was the turning point that spelt the end, among all the other minor and major disasters, of the Whitlam Government.

The Attorney-General, Mr. Ellicott, highlighted the hypocrisy of this man Whitlam when he addressed a seminar on the Commonwealth Constitution in Sydney or Melbourne. He was reported in "The Australian" of 9 August this year as having said quite succinctly that on at least four occasions Mr. Whitlam had accepted that the Senate had the power to do exactly what it did last year, that is, reject a money Bill or reject Supply. Mr. Ellicott rightly referred to an incident in 1959 when Mr. Whitlam supported a report accepting the existence of the Senate's power to reject Supply.

In 1970 Mr. Whitlam said of the Budget, and I quote from "Hansard"—

"We will vote against the Bill here and in the Senate. Our purpose is to destroy this Budget and the Government which sponsored it."

From Mr. Whitlam's statements it is quite obvious that he accepted the right of the Senate to block Supply.

In 1974 Mr. Whitlam accepted the existence of this power of the Senate when acceding to the double-dissolution decision of April. In 1975 Mr. Whitlam said—

"If there is again a refusal of Supply there will certainly be an election."

Mr. K. J. Hooper: That's ancient history. This is a State Parliament.

Mr. ALISON: I know the honourable member for Archerfield would like me to stop and get on to something else. But I think it is desirable to remind honourable members and also the people in my electorate and elsewhere of the facts. They bear repetition.

I come back to the words of Mr. Whitlam. He said later—

"We see some marvellous issues to fight on in this election, not the least of which is Medibank."

Mr. Whitlam's acceptance of the right of the Senate to block Supply is in black and white. So let's have no more of this hypocrisy from Mr. Whitlam in stamping round the ridges making out that he has been badly done by and that the Senate was acting illegally.

It might please the honourable member for Archerfield to know that I want to address some remarks now to our education system. For some years it has caused me grave concern. I wonder just where we are going with our education system and what we are aiming for. What are we aiming for in relation to the students who leave school at Junior or Senior level? Frankly I am a bit confused myself as to what our policies are in this regard.

There is no doubt that the standards of scholastic knowledge, particularly in the three R's—reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic—have slipped over the past 10 years. It would be easy to get on a hobby-horse and say, "I wonder what has happened. Children are no longer reading as they used to, and do not know how to punctuate, as we did when we were at school 10 years ago."

I believe the present situation to be symptomatic not only of the over-all problem and over-all malaise in our education system but also of the over-all standards in our community. This worries me. I am looking for answers.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Here we go. Now you are on familiar ground.

Mr. ALISON: I can well understand that the honourable member for Archerfield would not be interested in this.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: I am. I am listening to you.

Mr. ALISON: He is?

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Yes. Keep going.

Mr. ALISON: As I say, the falling standards in our education system are symptomatic of the falling standards in our community, and I am looking for answers to the problem. From what we see both inside and outside our schools it is obvious that there is a lowering of standards and behaviour.

Mr. Porter: Unfortunately we see it in teachers also.

Mr. ALISON: That is so.

Our education system is not providing the will or the incentive for children to be accurate. It is not providing the incentive or will for them to work hard or improve themselves.

Mr. Powell: Are you aware that the education committee has an investigatory committee looking into this matter now?

Mr. ALISON: I am aware of that. I am delighted at the move and I have some comments to make on it later.

This is a community problem, but we, as members of Parliament, cannot duck-shove it and say, "To hell with it; it is a community problem." Falling standards are not confined to the education system. They are general in the community. They are a prime problem for the community and therefore our prime problem. We should be doing more to get to the bottom of them, particularly the falling standards in our education system.

In the past five to 10 years in particular, too much change has taken place in our education system simply for the sake of change. There has been too much ditching of teaching methods that have been working well simply on the ground that they have been in vogue for 10, 20, 30 or 40 years. I understand from people who know more about it than I, that, basically, we are 10 to

20 years behind the techniques of most Western countries. Although some of the techniques adopted in Queensland have been tried elsewhere and found wanting, we blindly follow the same path. We are certainly making the same mistakes instead of learning from overseas experience. Too much is left to the academics and the bureaucrats in determining changes in techniques in our education system. Honourable members generally have fallen down on the job in that over the years they have not taken enough interest in what has been going on in our education system from the university down. We should do something to rectify that.

Last night I was interested to read a comment made by Mr. Don Chipp in the House of Representatives. I do not know the context from which it was taken, but he said, "Education is too important to be left to academics." Literally, I agree with that. It is where we have fallen down on the job. Too many changes have been recommended and implemented by the academics and bureaucrats, and we have not looked at them hard enough. By no stretch of the imagination do I suggest that we are the fountain of all knowledge, but we should be looking more closely at what is done. I was delighted when the moves were made to form a committee to investigate our education system. I am not sure of the committee's terms of reference, but this move to investigate our education system is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. Powell: The Minister has accepted it.

Mr. ALISON: I am pleased that the honourable member for Isis is putting the honourable member for Bundaberg right. He should be put right now and again to help him.

I should like to see an all-party committee review any important changes. I do not know what the guide-lines of such a committee should be and, quite frankly, I am looking for answers. Perhaps the committee could be similar to the one that was formed to review subordinate legislation. It could investigate important changes in education policy and teaching techniques before they are approved.

Mr. Porter: That would be an obvious subject for a select parliamentary committee.

Mr. ALISON: It could well be.

I do not suggest that we have all the answers, but at least we would get some of the decision-making away from the academics and bureaucrats. It would give honourable members, many of whom are experts in their own fields, with their ears tuned hopefully to what the people are asking for, an opportunity to look at what is required in our education system. The sooner this all-party committee is established to review important changes in our education system, the better.

Frankly, I am fed up with hearing bleatings from the university at St. Lucia and from other educational institutions where students are belly-aching about allowances. Fair enough; these allowances might not be what they should expect to be receiving to live on, but they are certainly not going about it the right way. Students on allowances who carry on like this and eventually appear before the courts for misconduct, or even on criminal charges, should lose their allowances. After all, as I understand it, it is taxpayers' money. If they are convicted while on a scholarship, they should lose it. In black-and-white terms, it is as simple as that. If these students are not on allowances, perhaps they should be given a second chance.

I shall now address a couple of brief remarks to the subject of universities. For a few years now I have been of the opinion that we are spending far too much money on the universities. Again I am looking for answers myself and I am speaking in general terms. I would not know where to start or where to cut down, but over all, judging from the amount of money that we are spending throughout Australia on technical colleges and colleges of advanced education, we should be cutting back on universities.

Mr. Jensen: Put in apprenticeship.

Mr. ALISON: Once again I agree with the honourable member. He is improving. I agree with him whole-heartedly. As a matter of fact, the inquiries that have been made reveal that there is a shortage of technologists, apprentices and tradesmen, and it is in selected areas in the universities in this field that we should be cutting back and putting more money into colleges of advanced education and institutes of technology.

I am afraid that the universities bitterly disappoint me. I realise that there has to be a place or an area for free-thinking and debate on public issues. I suppose that the academics have a right to voice their opinions and to offer advice to the community at large from time to time. But one gains the impression that some of these lecturers and academics think they have a divine right to say pretty well what they want to say and that the students also have some divine right to bludge around the place as some of them obviously do. How some of them achieve their goal of obtaining a degree, or whatever it is, I am damned if I know. I believe that all sorts of rackets and capers go on there, too. Frankly I should like to have the universities looked at seriously.

Mr. Wright: Be more specific. What sort of rackets and capers? That is a serious allegation.

Mr. ALISON: To suit the honourable member for Rockhampton I shall be more specific at some other time.

How we should tackle this problem, I do not know. I understand that universities should not be under Government sponsorship

or control—I go along with that; certainly they must have autonomy—but some guidelines should be laid down concerning the behaviour of the academic staff and the students and, as well, what is expected of students.

I should like to speak on a subject that is topical in my electorate—indeed, it is topical in the Wide Bay-Burnett region—and that is the need for the establishment of a college of advanced education there. It is the only coastal region in Queensland without a college of advanced education.

Last year or towards the end of 1974 a regional committee and various district committees were set up throughout the region to do the homework on whether a need existed for a college of advanced education in that area and then to prepare a case to be put before the Board of Advanced Education. That has been done. The work was completed earlier this year. A copy of the report was given to the Minister and to the Board of Advanced Education. It set out quite clearly the need for such a college in this area.

I realise that the Federal Government has cut back on its funding of these colleges and of education generally—at least it has cut back on the growth rate—but, nevertheless, I make the point here on behalf of my electorate in particular—and I make it quite plain that I shall be continuing to make the point—that there is a need for a college of advanced education there. When funds are available, we must be given priority because of the need in the Wide Bay-Burnett area, which, according to the Bureau of Census and Statistics, had a population of 141,000 at the end of June 1975. That is roughly a circular area within approximately 130 miles of Maryborough as its centre.

Whilst some parts have been rather static in growth, there are projects on the boil in my area and surrounding districts that will ensure increase in growth. Bundaberg has, of course, grown quite dramatically over the years and no doubt will continue to grow while the sugar industry booms. Noosa is well on the way and Gympie has taken a leap forward over the last 18 months.

Members of the Board of Advanced Education and others have fired at me, "You haven't got the growth rate to justify the establishment of a college of advanced education." I say that that attitude will be proved incorrect over the next two or three years. There will be a general uplift across the board in the growth rate of the Wide Bay-Burnett region.

Probably no part of Queensland, or indeed of Australia, offers so much for a productive marriage of a college of advanced education with the environment as does the Wide Bay-Burnett region. It has national status in such products as timber, fish, sugar, citrus and small crops and in such activities as water conservation, wallum development and tourism. Many of these primary industries

have important associated and ancillary industries. The production of sugar-milling and harvesting machinery is a large industry. Diesel locomotives and prefabricated timber structures are produced for the local and national markets and are also exported overseas. In the field of reforestation, the State Government is extensively involved.

Thus we see a unique opportunity for a personal relationship between the industries of the region and its college of advanced education. The industries would provide field experience and practical background for the students' courses in a wide range of subjects, with the college of advanced education supplying the inspiration and technological skills to assist industry in experimentation and innovation. There seems no real reason why a college of advanced education must be situated in or on the outskirts of a large city, although this has been the trend in the past. Indeed, the congestion of transport, pollution and a deteriorating quality of life in the larger cities point surely to the need for decentralisation in this field of education. Travel of 40 or 50 kilometres on rural roads is often quicker, safer and more comfortable than much shorter distances in the city. They are some of the facts that have been outlined in the report given to the Minister and the Board of Advanced Education.

In compiling this report, the committee, of course, had to submit figures on population and other pertinent factors. The committee went into the enrolment potential in the Wide Bay-Burnett area and came up with the fact that a pilot survey of 1974 Grade 12 school-leavers showed that approximately 30 per cent enrolled at colleges of advanced education or colleges of teacher education. Full-time students only were considered in the report. It has been proved that, in addition to enrolling students from Grade 12, a tertiary institution attracts enrolment from other sources. The percentage of such other sources at James Cook University is about 35 and at the University of Queensland 22. These figures include both full-time and part-time students. A conservative estimate of such full-time other sources for a college of advanced education in Wide Bay would be 10 per cent. It will therefore be seen that the members of the working committee who compiled those figures were rather conservative in their estimates of students who would attend a college of advanced education in this area.

It is also mentioned in the report that a college of advanced education established in the Wide Bay region in 1980 and having students channelled into it from the Wide Bay and North Coast areas would have an equivalent enrolment in the vicinity of 400 in its first year, increasing to approximately 1,200 in its third year. This, I might mention, is from the immediate region, not other areas. This comfortably fulfils the recommendation of the Bull-Swanson report for 1,000 equivalent full-time students at the end

of five years. At the present time, as I have already mentioned, mine is the only coastal educational region in Queensland without a college of advanced education.

Mr. Powell: That is not right.

Mr. ALISON: No, it is not right. Our students have to travel 170 miles to Brisbane, about 220 miles to Toowoomba, or about 270 miles to Rockhampton to attend colleges. As I said previously, I will continue to keep before the Government the need for a college of advanced education in the Wide Bay-Burnett region.

Mr. LAMOND (Wynnum) (2.55 p.m.): In rising to speak in the debate on the Address in Reply, I would like, firstly, to pledge my loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, and to express my appreciation to His Excellency the Governor, Sir Colin Hannah, on the excellent job he and Lady Hannah are doing in carrying out their demanding duties, which take them to every part of the State. I associate with my pledge of loyalty the people of the electorate of Wynnum, whom I am privileged to represent in the Parliament of Queensland. I say that because I represent one of the most pleasant electorates in the State. While other electorates might be equally pleasant, there are certainly none which surpass mine in that regard, and I feel I can speak with some authority on this point because 1976 sees my 40th year as a resident of the area.

While the suburb of Wynnum does form part of the Greater Brisbane Area, it suffers from problems which are not experienced in other suburbs, and I propose this afternoon to expound these problems in my contribution to the debate. Included in the electorate of Wynnum is the northern part of Moreton Bay and the majority of the islands which form a very important playground not only for the people of the electorate, but for most of the people of Brisbane and the surrounding area of South-east Queensland. While the local residents have a certain pride in the district they are certainly not complacent about the improvements which are required, and I can assure you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I shall not leave a stone unturned in my efforts to see that the people of Wynnum receive a fair share of Treasury funds.

Before proceeding further, I would like to congratulate the Honourable W. E. Knox on his elevation to the position of Deputy Premier and Treasurer. I feel certain it is a job that he will carry out with dignity and efficiency. I would like to congratulate the Honourable J. W. Greenwood on his elevation to the Ministry. In common with those honourable members who have spoken before me, I would like to offer my congratulations to Sir Gordon Chalk on his contributions to Parliament and the State over so many years. There is no doubt that we who have been members of this House for only a short time realise the demands that were placed on Sir Gordon Chalk over so many years.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the two new members of the House, the honourable member for Clayfield and the honourable member for Port Curtis, on their contributions to this debate. I was delighted to hear that each of them devoted much of their speeches to their electorates. I believe, and I so believed before I entered this House, that too much time is spent by members of various political persuasions attacking each other across the floor of the House, and it was refreshing to hear those two new members devote much of their time to discussing the problems of their electors. That is the purpose for which they were elected—to bring before this House the problems facing their electors and those matters occurring within the State that might affect their electors. I hope that many of the longer-serving members will learn something from the contributions to this debate by these newly elected members.

As I said, the electorate of Wynnum is situated in the Greater Brisbane Area. It has an area of only about 5 square miles and a population of some 13,000 people. Because of its location, it has become a service centre, and shopping facilities, banks and State and Federal Government offices have been established there. In fact, it services a population of between 50,000 and 60,000, which is far higher than the population of many cities throughout the State. On that basis alone, I believe that the Federal Government and the relevant Ministers of the State Government should endeavour to develop and extend decentralisation in Wynnum and other such areas.

One thing that I know is near to the hearts of many people in my electorate is the establishment of a hospital. It is very important that Cabinet Ministers—in fact, everyone involved in Government—should realise the great need for the establishment of a hospital in the bayside area. I know that I am being repetitious in saying that my electorate services a community of about 50,000 or 60,000 people, but I repeat it because I think it emphasises how badly a hospital is needed in the area.

The ambulance figures for my electorate show that in March this year more than 900 people were transported from Wynnum to hospitals in Brisbane. By making a simple calculation, one might reasonably assume that about 10,000 people would be transported to hospitals in Brisbane in one year. Although many of these people would attend hospitals as outpatients, a high proportion would actually be admitted to hospital. One must also take into consideration those who use private transport, because they would increase greatly the figure of 10,000 to which I referred earlier.

It is important to remember that the people who travel 12 miles to the nearest hospital are in a state of ill health. Although the ambulance service does a very good job, it is reasonable to assume that they experience a good deal of discomfort during the trip.

I have canvassed the need for a hospital in the Wynnum electorate ever since I became a member of this Assembly, and I have had many discussions on that subject with the Minister for Health and with the Premier. Although those who preceded me made certain comments on the need for a hospital, I assure honourable members that while I am the elected representative for Wynnum I shall continue to be very vocal in my request—I might say “demand”—that the area be given the hospital that it so urgently needs and a health complex becomes a reality.

It would be wrong of me not to thank the Minister for Health and the Government for the various forms of assistance that they have given the Wynnum electorate in the health field. In 1975 the Wynnum-Manly Community Health Centre was established, and it is playing a very important part in the area. Adjacent to my electorate, the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit has been established, and it is of vital importance to aged people not only from my own electorate but also from other parts of Queensland.

For many years Moreton Bay has supplied most of the fish for the consumer market in Queensland. Probably the fish depot in my electorate is smaller than those that have been established in other areas, but the quantity of fish it handles makes it very important.

Although the fishing industry throughout the State has been and still is fragmented, the Minister for Fisheries is to be congratulated for the part he is playing. He is doing his utmost to bring the industry to the stage where it can effectively play its part among the primary industries of Queensland. I realise that all those engaged in the various primary industries throughout the State are frequently affected by the elements, but there is no doubt that the fishing industry is the one that is most affected by them. I do not need to stress that as I am sure all honourable members realise that many hours are lost to people in the fishing industry because of unfavourable weather. The elements pose a major problem.

Not all the edible products of the sea are being harvested. I venture to suggest that possibly 50 per cent of the edible contents of the sea are not being harvested and the reason is that people are not educated to accept certain items from the sea on their table. I recommend to the Minister and the Fisheries Council that they involve themselves more in the marketing of the many and varied products of the sea. There is no reason why at least one product of the sea should not be on everyone's table at least once a week. We saw what the poultry industry did a number of years ago. The fishing industry as a whole could attack the problem.

Mr. Kaus: It might make a difference if the name of the Moreton Bay bug was changed.

Mr. LAMOND: That is a good point. That is a lobster-type crustacean which, under another name, would be eagerly sought after. The squid, or calamary as it is called overseas, is not regarded as being a very important part of the supply from the sea. There are a dozen different ways the problem could be attacked.

Insufficient money is being spent on research into the fishing industry. Not enough is known about the habits of fish or the effect that the environment created by man is having on fish. Research should be conducted into the life of fish and their habitats. Such research should be market-orientated along the lines I spoke of earlier. Certainly the industry has many problems. Without doubt, under the Minister's guidance we will see during the next year greater involvement and interest in the industry, with a breakdown of the fragmentation.

The problems associated with the industry cannot be considered only at conference level; they must also be studied at the level of involvement—by way of research, allowing those involved in the industry to have their say. With the correct involvement the industry can play its role as an important section of primary industry in Australia.

The port of Brisbane is in an area close to my electorate, and it concerns me greatly. I have been given many assurances by the Ministers concerned about the development of the port and arterial roads, and the environmental effect. I accept what has been said, namely, that it will have little or no effect on the residents of my electorate. If with the development of the new port of Brisbane my area is adversely affected by the location of feeder and service roads, I will be as vocal in my condemnation of the proposal as I am now in my support of it. If the roads are correctly located they will not only bring great benefits to commerce in the Wynnum, Manly and Lota areas but also create employment. If they are incorrectly located, however, they will have one of two adverse effects; either they will bring with them a heavy flow of traffic through residential areas or they will bypass the district totally and rob it of any chance of benefiting from the multimillion-dollar complex on its doorstep.

Nature has given the city of Brisbane a wonderful means of transport, namely, the Brisbane River. Many overseas countries have accepted the fact that water transport is fast, effective and efficient. So I hope that in the planning of the construction of the new port the Brisbane River will be given a major role.

To turn to another matter—there is no doubt that those persons involved in all levels of government must concern themselves in sport for the young. Both the Federal and State Governments pay out annually many millions of dollars on academic education. Insufficient money, however, is spent on the promotion of sport for school-children

and other young people. Too little money is made available to those responsible organisations that provide sport for young people.

If we were to spend more money on sport and on the involvement of young people in it, we would have less juvenile delinquency and fewer appearances of young persons in court. An active body promotes an active mind. By not providing sufficient money for sport we are neglecting that most important section of our community, the young. I thank the Minister for Sport and his department for the thousands of dollars that have been poured into my electorate to promote sport. However, more money is needed. We must help our young people to realise what sport means to them. It gives them the opportunity to experience involvement in life, comradeship, team spirit and fair play; it also gives them the opportunity to play their part in the team of life. Far too frequently today people, both young and old, fail to play their part in the team of life. I urge the Government to give serious consideration to this important matter.

Whilst my district is part of the Greater Brisbane Area, it enjoys a certain amount of autonomy, particularly in relation to transport. I ask the Minister for Transport to give serious consideration to the upgrading of the rail services to the Wynnum, Manly and Lota areas and also to review my requests for the provision of commuter car parks in the area in preparation for electrification. I realise that electrification will not be available in my area in the immediate future but commuters should be encouraged to use the rail system through the provision of parking facilities. I ask the Minister to give this matter serious thought.

Most honourable members realise that before the end of the 20th Century, private motor vehicles will become the slowest means of transport at peak hours. That has happened in other cities of Australia and in other parts of the world. We must adopt an extensive, bold approach to systems of moving commuters to and from various areas such as from my electorate to the city of Brisbane.

My electorate encompasses much of Moreton Bay, which has become the playground of many people who enjoy boating. In the past few years an incredible increase has taken place in the number of small boats on our waterways. They are no longer a luxury; they have become the toy of many. So it is vital that those responsible for navigational aids realise that most of the boating fraternity in the bay use fast, small craft. The design of such boats puts the occupants close to the water, so they have difficulty in picking up navigational aids at a distance. In planning, consideration must be given to providing navigational aids that these people can see.

I am sure that most honourable members have heard or read about the changes proposed for displacement craft and heavier

power boats. These changes must be looked at carefully because boating is a pleasure that people have learnt to enjoy. When we impose too many restrictions on the boating fraternity we take away from them most of the joy of boating. I am strenuously opposed to any regulations that restrict the freedom of movement of people who enjoy boating on the Queensland coast.

I have spoken to the Minister for Tourism and Marine Services about the increased mooring charges at Manly Boat Harbour and other places. In August 1974 it cost \$85 to moor a certain boat in Manly. In August 1975 it cost \$156 but in August 1976 it cost \$364. Such an incredible increase cannot be tolerated.

Mr. Burns: The increases will be worse next year.

Mr. LAMOND: We will have to watch very carefully what happens.

While nature has been kind to us by providing the islands in Moreton Bay, we should realise that they are only lent to us for our lifetime. Unfortunately much devastation has taken place on Mud Island. Over a number of years coral dredging has left Mud Island without charm. Some people may say that a mangrove island has no charm, but I disagree. Nature has given each of these islands its charm. Much of Mud Island is surrounded by spoil that makes it impossible to step ashore. Also, there are broken piles, which are most certainly a hazard to the navigation of small craft. So we have a destroyed island.

It is our responsibility, as people in government, to make sure that conditions in coral leases granted for those islands, such as Green Island, are imposed—I understand they have not been yet—so that history will not be repeated and the islands destroyed. There is no doubt that coral dredging can take place and the spoil deposited in such a way as to create small boat havens or small sandy bays. These islands are used by many people at the week-ends. Dredging in that area must be watched very carefully. As I said, the islands are lent to us for only a lifetime and we have not the right to destroy them during our lifetime.

The state of the building industry concerns many of us. Last year, in speaking in the Works and Housing Estimates debate I said—

“It is indeed one of the first responsibilities of whatever Government is in power in Canberra—and I repeat, ‘whatever Government is in power in Canberra’—to distribute housing finance fairly among all States irrespective of the political colour of any State Government.”

Whilst I realise that the Premier, together with the Deputy Premier and Treasurer and the Minister for Works and Housing, has continued to be most vocal in his demands on the people in Canberra to assist the building industry with finance, I request that

my comment be added so that the matter can be pursued even more strenuously. At present, the industry is in such a state that many young people and others who are home seekers cannot purchase homes. Those in the industry, including the builders and the builders' labourers, are in an unfortunate situation. It is the responsibility of those in government at all levels to make sure that we retain the honour of Australia being the country with the greatest proportion of home owners in the world. We will only retain that position if we look at interest rates, repayments—in fact, the whole situation of funding—so that the average person on the average wage can afford to acquire a home, which is most certainly his just right.

There are many subjects I should like to cover. However, time permits me to raise only one further point. I congratulate the Premier and his Ministers, particularly the Minister for Police, because the enforcement of law and order is vital. Today, through each branch of the media we learn of many acts of violence, of various forms of attack on those who are less strong. It is our responsibility as a Government to ensure that the weak—indeed all citizens—have the protection of an efficient and reliable Police Force. Surely this is the right of every Queensland citizen.

I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity to speak at this stage in the debate.

Mr. JONES (Cairns) (3.24 p.m.): Initially, I wish to join with the honourable member for Bulimba in extending my personal condolences to the honourable member for Mulgrave (Roy Armstrong) on the sad loss of his good wife in her sleep last night. I am sure that I speak for all honourable members when I extend sincere sympathy to him and his family. On the plane on Tuesday, he was unaware that, for the last time, he had bade his wife farewell. He has been a colleague of mine for a long time, although we have been on opposite sides of the political fence and on opposite sides of this Chamber. We have shared electoral boundaries and our friendship has developed out of mutual respect. I certainly would not wish to bear the burden of his bereavement today. It is an indication of the difficulties confronting country and provincial members, who sit here in the House many hundreds of miles from their homes and electorates.

Subsequent to the speech made by the honourable member for Bulimba today, I learnt that the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport had lost his father. On behalf of the Opposition, and indeed on behalf of all members, I extend condolences to him. I also take this opportunity to thank members for their expressions of sympathy when I lost my father some time ago. This is the first opportunity I have had to convey my thanks to the House.

As is customary, I pay a tribute to the mover of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. In lighter vein, I am told that the only good thing he ever did was to marry a Cairns girl. I congratulate him on that also.

I extend a warm welcome to my colleague and friend the new member for Port Curtis (Mr. Bill Prest). He came from the industry in which I worked for 23 years and he and I served in the same classification. We therefore have plenty in common not only in our party bonds but in our personal lives and our industrial backgrounds. I am sure that he will be a great asset to the House and a grand representative to replace Mr. Martin Hanson.

I would be remiss if I did not mention another former colleague, Sir Gordon Chalk. I pay a tribute to him as both a parliamentarian and a man. He treated all members equally, irrespective of the side on which they sat, particularly in their electorates. In fact, he was renowned for always recognising members as the representatives of their respective electorates. In this respect other Ministers and members could well take a leaf out of his book.

As is also customary, I reaffirm my loyalty and that of the electors of Cairns to the Queen and the Crown. What we do during each Address-in-Reply debate seems to me to be rather repetitious. We swear our loyalty on the Bible at the opening of each Parliament and I feel that that should be sufficient. Taking this thought a little further, I think we could also possibly reduce expenditure a little by decreasing the number of times Parliament is formally opened. It seems utterly ridiculous to me to have three openings in the life of each Parliament. I think that if Parliament were opened formally on assembling after an election, that would be sufficient. The bun-fights that are held year after year lose their significance and become a little boring.

Comments have been made, rather unkindly, about Opposition members and their loyalty, particularly by the new member for Warrego. I warn him not to stand in judgment on the loyalty of others. The real test of loyalty is, in the words of the Scriptures—

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

The ultimate reflection of that loyalty is found in a man who is prepared to lay down his life for his country. I say to the honourable member that he should look into the background of his leaders and members of the Opposition and see who has been tried and tested. Some of us are a little more fortunate than others in that we have passed the test, which is sometimes called the moment of truth. Spanish bullfighters refer to the test as the moment of truth, and another phrase connected with bullfighting which I learned a long time ago was “Guido del toro”. Some of us have been lucky enough to be tested and not found wanting.

I do not pass judgment on other members and it is hypocritical for other members to stand up here and condemn people en masse. I do not believe that the repetition of our affirmation of loyalty is necessary, at least not year in and year out. It is something that a man keeps to himself. I suppose it is something like religion. If one has a Christian understanding it is an inner feeling. One does not have to go out and explain it to everybody. It is something that is tempered by the test of faith, and no-one else has to be satisfied of it. It is sufficient to know one's self.

Far North Queensland, the area I am very proud to represent, is presently undergoing quite a deal of disruption to its power supply. People from Mackay to Cape York Peninsular are suffering from electricity black-outs. To hazard a guess, I would say that the chickens are coming home to roost. It was and has been for a long period the policy of my party to advocate an increase in the hydro capacity of the Barron Gorge and the Tully Falls scheme connected with the Kareeya Power House. If honourable members recall, the Labor Party built the Tinaroo Dam and the supplementary scheme. The Flaggy Creek retention weir, which was intended to hold water in reserve for the hydro scheme is incomplete. At present it takes about 36 hours for water required at the Barron Gorge to flow from the Tinaroo Dam, and during that period we suffer undue disruptions to our electricity supply.

In Townsville last week-end the Premier said that there was insufficient water in Far North Queensland to undertake a scheme to increase the capacity of the hydro scheme. I understand his thinking that. We know that because of the actions of Governments of his political persuasion, we do not have the water reserves we should, but he would be laughed out of court if he made the statement in my electorate that there is no water in Far North Queensland. We might have short run-offs but the extent of our rainfall is widely known. The Koombooloomba Dam on the Tully River should be extended, as should the reserves on the Barron River.

This Government stopped the development that had been planned by the Labor Party. The honourable member for Hinchinbrook will probably support me in that assertion. It stopped the development of a hydro project planned for the Herbert River, and the reason there is insufficient water for this purpose in North Queensland is that there are no emergency water-storage facilities. If there were such facilities in Far North Queensland, we would not be suffering the present power black-outs. As a matter of fact, the only electricity flowing through North Queensland at the moment is being supplied by the Barron River and Kareeya Power Houses; but for them, there would be a complete black-out from Mackay North.

Something should have been done 20 years ago to correct the situation. If honourable members opposite cannot understand

that, they cannot understand fundamentals. Perhaps now they will be able to understand why we in North Queensland sometimes say in frustration that we should have had a separate State in North Queensland. Decisions taken in the southern part of the State affect our daily lives, and the people of Far North Queensland say, "When this Government talks about a decentralised State, we know that control is centralised in Queen Street and decisions are taken there that affect us from day to day." Although the initial capital cost of hydroelectric powerhouses may be greater than that of conventional coal-fired powerhouses—it certainly would be higher now than it was 20 years ago—their construction pays dividends.

While I am speaking of electricity supply, I point out to honourable members that it has come to my attention that the Government intends amending the Electric Light and Power Act to allow an electrical contractor to connect additions to an installation without a further check by an installations inspector. That appears to be all right until one goes into the ramifications of what it will mean. I caution the Minister for Mines and Energy to look very closely at what might happen if the proposed amendment sees the light of day.

I might refer to the case at Belmont recently in which a young child—I think it was a 12-year-old girl—either came home from school or was left at home and, as Australian children usually do, put the jug on probably to have a cup of tea ready for her mother when she came home from town. The jug had no earth-return wire and she put it on a stainless steel sink. It had never been inspected, and the child was electrocuted.

That is the type of thing we can expect to happen if the amendment is agreed to. General-purpose outlets will be left without an earth. There will be switches on lights and power outlets not controlling the active conductor. There will be ranges, hot-water systems and luminaries without an earth. There will be bare joints in cables under houses that will also be accessible to children.

Under the present Act, the entire installation and appliances present are required to be checked. It will be appreciated that many faulty appliances and flexes and general-purpose outlets without earths are found during check inspections by installation inspectors employed by the boards. Statistics reveal that this type of fault is the most prevalent cause of electrocution in Queensland. If the Government is considering introducing legislation of that type, as I understand it is, I warn it not to continue with it. If it is worried about costs that may be incurred in inspections, I suggest that it weigh them against the lives of children and the uninjured.

The local authorities have a standard charge for inspections by building, plumbing and health inspectors. Perhaps the Government should be looking at a similar charge by the supply authorities to cover the

inspection of every addition by an installations inspector, which would ensure that a high standard of electrical safety was maintained. We cannot afford to mess around with electricity, so installation inspectors are a necessity.

This year Cairns is celebrating its centenary. I am on the inaugural executive committee which started work on arrangements about 12 months ago. In the Governor's Opening Speech attention was drawn to the success of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau's publicity campaign, and it was mentioned that despite the economic situation there has been continued development of modern tourist complexes in North Queensland. Reference was also made to the tourist seminar to be held in our centenary year.

I draw attention to the obvious anomalies in the tourist industry in Far North Queensland. The new Federal Government, as one of its first acts—I would call it an act of vandalism—abolished the portfolio of Tourism and Recreation. At the same time it substantially cut the budget of the Australian Tourist Commission, abolished all development grants to the tourist industry and suspended short-term assistance to the tourist industry for accommodation. Its policy of cutbacks is stifling the tourist industry. It is killing incentive; it is abandoning the industry concept.

Mr. Lester: Would you do something about the high cost of motels in Cairns? I was up there recently and, frankly, I was shocked at the cost.

Mr. JONES: I heard that the honourable member for Belyando was in Cairns. I understand he attended the wrong church. I am sure it was an ecumenical action; the honourable member surely should know the difference these days. I believe he even congratulated the minister on the mass. It was very interesting to hear some of the comments from the locals. I am not sure whether he was the fellow who went to sleep on the seat outside the motel, but I will tell that story on another occasion.

I will develop my argument about the high costs of Far North Queensland and explain for the edification of the honourable member just why we are in that position today. It is one of the effects of the abolition of the portfolio of Tourism and Recreation and the substantial cuts in assistance to the tourist industry. To me it is not only a cutback but a slow-down. It is a sell-out of the Queensland tourist industry. This State cannot put up with that sort of treacherous treatment by the Federal Government. We cannot afford to be restricted financially at this time. I do not believe that they are simply cutbacks. In a refined way the Federal Government is calling it "pruning". In the National Party concept I would be more inclined to call it "ringbarking". The Federal Government might as well have cut the industry's throat and left it to die in the

dirt like a dog. Far too often North Queensland suffers as a result of cutbacks in the tourist industry. No Government, State or Federal, considers it to be an industry or even recognises it on an industry basis. This has been the situation for far too long.

At least the Federal Labor Government gave token recognition to it as a tourist industry by appointing a Tourism Minister. It also started to make moves to ensure that financial assistance would be granted to the industry. It is to be hoped that in the immediate future the tourist industry will be granted the same financial assistance as that given to the primary producers.

I realise that the present situation is not the fault of the Government alone; the tourist industry, too, is partly to blame. For example, there are far too many tourist associations, nearly all of which lack finance and the necessary know-how. This State is divided into regions that correspond roughly with tourist destinations. Each region should contain one tourist association employing a full-time promotional officer. Such an officer is employed in Cairns. Further, the State Government should underwrite the cost of annual seminars or conferences of tourist officers. Combined promotional activities should also be organised.

The sum of money that is set aside to promote Queensland as the holiday State is very meagre indeed. There is a need for the Federal Government to realise the importance of the tourist industry, an industry that earns millions of dollars not only for Queensland but for Australia as well. The industry must be taken seriously on an industry basis. It is big business. Catering for tourists is a specialised and serious business.

Instead of containing the Australian Tourist Commission, the Federal Government should have expanded it. It limited the commission's budget and made available to it an almost infinitesimal amount. I cannot urge too strongly the need to organise the tourist industry as an industry and to make Government grants and subsidies available to it.

I would draw an analogy between beef roads and tourist roads. Beef roads are an excellent concept; so why not construct tourist roads? The Bruce Highway from Brisbane to Cooktown comes to mind.

Mr. Lester: What about from Roma to Emerald, Clermont and Charters Towers?

Mr. JONES: Any honourable member could think of roads in his electorate that are appropriate for upgrading as tourist roads. But the concept is not recognised even by the State Government. I am putting it forward to Government members so that they can take it to their caucus meeting and tell the Minister for Tourism what is needed.

It is important, however, that the construction of tourist roads follow a set pattern. It is useless constructing such a road in the electorate of a member simply because

he happens to represent the political party that is in power at the time. Let us not build tourist roads as we build court-houses in the Belyando electorate. Apparently the honourable member had a court-house built in his electorate simply because he represented it. It appears that there is not even a need for the court-house; it is not yet staffed.

We should not approach tourism in this way. We must learn about Government investment in tourism in other Pacific countries. I could nominate the New Zealand Government as the epitome of perfection in this field. It invests heavily in the tourist industry and operates chains of luxury hotels at key tourist spots. We could also look at Fiji, Hawaii and similar places to get a better idea of what to do. Over the years we must have learnt something. But what did the Federal Government do? It cut out the tourist portfolio and said it does not believe that what was being done was reasonable, even though tourism generates millions of dollars each year. The cost anomalies between international and domestic flights should also be investigated with a view to their removal.

Between 1972 and 1975 our tourist industry was thriving with an annual increase of about 30 per cent. In the winter months in those years, accommodation could not cope with the demand, irrespective of cost, and tourists had to be diverted to the surrounding shires. The increase in accommodation facilities was not keeping pace with the 30 per cent increase in tourists. That was a reflection of the economy of the day, and what is happening today is a reflection of how Governments are handling the present economic situation.

Statistics on the tourist industry are very limited. Since 1967 I have been getting the yearly total of tourists visiting certain attractions in my area. I concentrated on the Kuranda rail tour in the belief that everyone who comes to Cairns goes on that trip. The following are the yearly totals of tourists visiting Kuranda by rail—

Year	Number of Tourists
1967	37,334
1968	36,522
1969	37,680
1970	47,196
1971	53,196
1972	57,512
1973	71,039
1974	74,341
1975	96,146

The monthly breakdown of figures for the first seven months of 1975 and 1976 shows the following:—

Month	No. in 1975	No. in 1976
January	7,162	7,668
February	1,835	1,856
March	3,133	2,120
April	5,021	4,309
May	13,347	10,162
June	8,879	8,183
July	12,889	11,390

That indicates a definite falling off between October and March this year.

Mr. Casey: That is the first big drop in years.

Mr. JONES: Yes, since 1957.

Mr. Lester: Does that relate only to Cairns?

Mr. JONES: Those figures relate only to the Cairns-Kuranda railway. That is the only indicator I could get. No doubt the figures for the Green Island trip have fallen similarly. I have tables setting out beds and rooms available for visitors. The indication is that over-all we are falling back this year.

The point I make is that this is the centenary year in Cairns. For over 12 months prior to 1976 we were planning for our centenary year. Yet, despite all of our planning and despite all the conferences that are coming to Cairns, which should have put the icing on the cake, we are falling back. Our over-all increase, instead of being 30 per cent, is about 2 per cent. So we are barely holding our ground in this our centenary year. We are fearful about what may happen next year.

Mr. Lester: You are dearer than a lot of other places.

Mr. JONES: I am coming to that. Some definite decision must be taken on what we are going to do about things being dearer in North Queensland. I believe that this calls for Government action.

I refer to an article in "The Australian" of 27 August concerning the tourist industry in Australia. The story is about, "Bluey Ocker, your average Melbourne working man." He went into a tourist promotion place in Melbourne. Whether it was a Queensland Government Tourist Bureau agency or not does not matter. The article reads—

"For \$756, Qantas will fly Mr. Ocker 8878 kilometres to Hawaii and back. They will put him up for 15 days . . .

Dunk Island is only 2606 kilometres away from Melbourne, and one might think that 15 days there would be significantly cheaper than flying to Hawaii.

"Not so. If Mr. Ocker had decided to soak up the sun at Dunk Island, it would have cost him \$765 for only 14 days.

"He might then consider somewhere closer to home. Say, New Zealand? Qantas finds its most popular New Zealand holiday costs \$642. That includes a return flight 2636 kilometres to Auckland, and 16 days of tours and accommodation in most of the major centres on the North and South Islands.

"Hong Kong is a somewhat longer distance from Melbourne 8502 kilometres. A Jet-about holiday, which also takes in Manila, costs \$752."

That is slightly cheaper than going to Dunk Island.

These are some of the problems that the tourist industry in Far North Queensland is

facing. The cost of transport from the main tourist markets is one of the strongest factors. I read with some apprehension an article in "The Cairns Post" of Tuesday, 7 December 1976, that rail charges might rise by 13 per cent in the State Budget. In that case, the position will be worse. It is far more expensive to travel to Far North Queensland by air than it is to go to New Zealand, Fiji, or other Pacific destinations. Now, an increase of 13 per cent in rail fares would really throw a spanner in the works.

The Bruce Highway is bad news for motorists. In wet seasons it is often closed. Not enough money is being spent to upgrade it. It is not considered to be a tourist project. The incentives to travel by car to Cairns are non-existent. I would be prepared to put forward a case for motorists to have their cars transported to Far North Queensland on flat-top railway wagons. But if rail freights are to be increased by 13 per cent, that will probably put the kibosh on that form of travel. It is a long way to Cairns for car travellers, and bus and train travel are not very attractive for most Australian holiday-makers. However, car travel is the cheapest form of transport and the one most used by people who come to my area. An extract from the 1971 Australian National Travel Association report gives the following figures of transport used by visitors in Queensland and they are the only ones that I could find—

Mainly car	58.7
Train	8.1
Coach	12.8
Sea	1.7
Air	16.3
Other forms	2.4

One of the first things to recognise therefore is the need for tourist roads. Development should proceed from there.

The cost of accommodation is, as the Leader of the Opposition said earlier, caused mainly by the extent of capital outlay on the building of motel units. Building costs are high in Far North Queensland and they are being accelerated by freight costs, which are high because of the great distance from manufacturing centres. The cost of labour to operate accommodation places is also very high. I think we need an award to cover the accommodation industry. Some proprietors of tourist establishments provide very well for staff but they are in the minority. I believe that full opportunity must be taken to train staff for this industry in Far North Queensland.

We must try to persuade big investors to enter the industry and we must assist them to negotiate loans at reasonable rates. We have to see that proprietors are allowed a proper rate of depreciation on swimming pools and buildings and that the state of the industry is considered. We then have to find out exactly where assistance is required.

Better roads are required on main tourist routes. Signposting in tourist areas is

urgently required. The Queensland Government should take the initiative in collecting statistics for the tourist industry. The initiative should also be taken in the training of people who wish to enter the tourist industry. I have no doubt that the Minister will refer me to what is being done at the college at Gatton. I am aware of that but I do not think that it is being used to the best advantage. More money should be made available to develop national parks and assistance should be given for the development of tourist facilities in remote areas.

Consideration should also be given to the staggering of school holidays between States to encourage local travel. We must also look at the marketing methods of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau.

Mr. Newbery: There is some staggering already but it has not gone far enough.

Mr. JONES: A.N.T.A. should be looking at this matter and influencing the Governments of other States, and the Federal Government, to come to some arrangement.

I also believe that devaluation of the dollar may assist the tourist industry. There should be depreciation allowances on income-producing buildings. We should be looking at Australia-wide promotion of domestic tourism, perhaps through A.N.T.A. There should also be a reduction of aircraft fuel taxes on domestic airlines for tourist flights. Airlines should be encouraged to provide more innovative fares and package tours. They could provide concessions for advance purchase and for pre-determined routes marked on a stop-over basis. Domestic charters could be more heavily marketed than at present. Long-term low-interest finance should also be provided for the tourist industry.

(Time expired.)

Mr. YOUNG (Baroona) (4.4 p.m.): In rising today to add my contribution to the debate on the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Opening Speech, I again with pleasure place on record my loyalty and that of my constituents to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I also thank His Excellency the Governor of Queensland, Sir Colin Hannah, for the manner in which he delivered his Opening Speech this session.

I feel that we in Queensland are indeed fortunate to have a man like Sir Colin Hannah as Governor. He has proved that he is extremely dedicated to Queensland and has Queensland's best interests at heart.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the two new members recently elected to this Assembly, particularly my colleague the honourable member for Clayfield, a man who I know will make many worth-while contributions in this Chamber both for the good of his electorate and for the good of the State generally.

In the Baroona electorate, as in the remainder of Queensland, we face ever-increasing and demanding problems in all

areas. I am very pleased that the coalition Government is attending to quite a large number of these problems and that I have been successful in bringing several of them to the attention of the Ministers in our Cabinet.

One of the most important and pressing problems in my electorate at the moment is the establishment of the Petrie Terrace State Pre-school Centre. This centre will have one pre-school unit attached to it and will be located in Moreton Street, Petrie Terrace. Over a period I have asked numerous questions of the Minister for Education on this matter. The Minister has accompanied me to inspect the site and I am very pleased to say that the building will be commenced in the very near future. I feel that this is a service which will be of great benefit to the Petrie Terrace area generally because it has two schools in the disadvantaged schools category. In the meantime we are extremely fortunate to have the services of a pre-school teacher attached to the Petrie Terrace State School. She is doing a marvellous job but she is limited in the number of children she can work with because of the small area allotted to her.

The ready availability of pre-school education to the greatest possible number of children in Queensland is, of course, the policy of this Government, and I endorse this policy in all respects. But I feel it is extremely important that pre-school development in Queensland should not be achieved at the expense of organisations like the Creche and Kindergarten Association and kindergartens in the community generally. I feel that the State pre-school system and the Creche and Kindergarten Association have a joint role to play in pre-school education in Queensland.

Looking at the other end of my electorate, and in particular at the Kelvin Grove area, it is most unfortunate that the old police station was converted to house a police dog unit rather than a pre-school centre. I feel that if the pre-school centre had been built in conjunction with this establishment, construction costs would have been greatly reduced and the Kelvin Grove area would have been provided with a pre-school service sooner. But the formation of a police dog unit in the Kelvin Grove area has served one purpose; there are now more police in the area, plus a few police dogs, and the local residents can rest easier at night.

While discussing education, I would like to point out that the Baroona Opportunity School is being expanded. It was one of the first schools to be opened in Brisbane; it dates back well over 100 years. The Education Department is currently buying adjoining land, and when the expansion is completed the school will have a very appropriate mixture of original education architecture and some of the most modern in Queensland. About \$250,000 is being spent on the project. I believe that the great need in Queensland for special education

facilities such as opportunity schools is being recognised more and more and I feel that this money is being very appropriately and well spent. I am very pleased that the Minister for Works and Housing has visited this school with me on occasions and consulted with the staff, teachers and interested people on a few minor adjustments to the programme under way there.

Still discussing education problems generally—I am also pleased with the interest shown in my electorate in the Parliamentary education committee that is investigating some aspects of the Education Department. It is very gratifying to find so many teachers and parents who are willing to sit down and offer constructive criticism. In this day and age, one often finds that many people knock just for the sake of knocking, and in this inquiry, at least, one can take some comfort from the quality of the submissions that are being made on various subjects. I am particularly impressed with the submissions coming from various quarters in my electorate.

I come to my final point on the subject of education. In my electorate, two colleges of advanced education are very closely associated in the Kelvin Grove area. Therefore, student accommodation is of great importance and poses a big problem. I was very pleased when the Minister for Works and Housing announced a few weeks ago that there would be a \$1,000,000-plus project for student accommodation in the Kelvin Grove area. It will help to accommodate about 114 students. Units of this type are a step in the right direction, but many more similar institutions are needed because of the large number of education facilities in the electorate.

Probably one of the most serious problems facing the people of Baroona is housing, particularly housing for the aged. Pensioner units are always in extremely short supply, and many more are needed in inner-city electorates such as Baroona. In Ranley Grove Street, Paddington, just opposite my electorate office, it is planned to build 20 pensioner units. This will go a long way towards relieving the concern and distress of the many aged people in Paddington. However, 20 units is a mere drop in the ocean. Many more pensioner units are needed in inner-city areas if the emotional problems relative to housing of the elderly citizens are to be overcome.

Fortunately, there is now in Canberra a Government more oriented to federalism than to centralism, more oriented to the individual than to the socialist policies of the former Labor Government. I trust that the Minister for Works and Housing will do his utmost in urging the Government in Canberra to remove a number of the unwarranted restrictions related to pensioner units that were imposed by the socialist Labor Government. These restrictions are causing great concern, because many pensioners are being prevented by technicalities laid down by the

former Government from obtaining occupancy of pensioner units. I hope that the Minister will make it possible for these units to become more readily available to many elderly citizens.

In the Baroona electorate, there is very little Housing Commission development and a high density of population. In my opinion, serious consideration must be given to implementing redevelopment programmes in inner-city areas such as Petrie Terrace. Too often houses are pulled down and replaced by large multi-storey office blocks that remain unoccupied for many months, sometimes even years. It would be a great step forward if the Housing Commission could purchase some of those old residences, renovate them and then offer them as rental houses to Housing Commission applicants. This would do more for the redevelopment of inner-city areas than is done by pulling down all the available housing in close proximity to the city and replacing it with obnoxious multi-storey office blocks, which will probably remain unoccupied for a long time.

I am pleased that many of my colleagues on this side have suggested that there should be no deposit on Housing Commission homes. I firmly support that suggestion. It is Liberal Party policy. We believe that home-ownership is very important. Every Queenslander has the right to own a home. Once a Housing Commission tenant has proved to be a reliable person, surely the rent he has paid should go towards the deposit on his house if he wishes to purchase it, if there has to be a deposit. A demand should not be made for an additional \$200 or \$300. I hope the Housing Commission will give that a great deal of thought, and abolish all deposits on Housing Commission purchase houses.

Summing up my comments on the two most important aspects of housing in my area, I say, firstly, that a sound investigation should be carried out into the possible redevelopment of the inner-city area to ensure that it is not done on a willy-nilly basis over a period of time, and, secondly, that Housing Commission tenants should be given an option to buy without further cost to them by way of deposit.

We hear a great deal about transport these days. I hope that the Minister for Transport will give consideration to the redevelopment of railway stations in my area. With a bus and rail co-ordinated transport programme, the Milton Railway Station would be an excellent example of a place where a large car park could and should be developed. If that park were developed, people could park their motor vehicles in it and then travel into the city by train. And I hope that in the near future it will be a fast and comfortable electric train.

I place on record my personal recognition and appreciation of a number of groups in my area that give me immense assistance. The Blue Nursing Service and

St. Luke's Nursing Service are two organisations doing a tremendous job in caring for the aged and sick in the Baroona electorate. With their assistance I have been able to do my small part in making the lives of those people just a little more comfortable. The Queensland Social Service League, Life Line, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army are always ready to assist with food orders and clothing and to provide a roof over the head for a family that has been turned out of its home. Without such organisations to help people generally, and to help me personally to give service to Baroona, the community would be far worse off.

The health problems that confront the Baroona electorate will be greatly alleviated by the construction in Musgrave Road, Red Hill, of a nursing home that will contain 90 beds and provide a service to outpatients. Its construction is under way at present, and local residents enthusiastically await its completion. Every week I receive inquiries from people who ask when the doors will open and when they will be able to make application for admission to the unit. A nursing home of this size in the inner-city area will be of great benefit not only to the residents of Baroona but also to the people of the whole of the city of Brisbane as well.

I compliment the Minister for Health on the provision in Queensland of school dental services. They are much needed in the State. However, we in Baroona lack such a service, so I trust that in the near future the Minister will give favourable consideration to the establishment of a school dental unit in Baroona, preferably at the Petrie Terrace State School. Baroona contains a number of disadvantaged schools, such as Petrie Terrace and Paddington, and is an area that is worthy of consideration in the provision of school dental services.

The Riverside Expressway is of great benefit to my constituents. I have received a number of phone calls from them, praising the Government on its foresight in planning and constructing the expressway. It allows people who live in the western suburbs to drive to and from town, even during peak hours, much more quickly than before. However, I wish to place in "Hansard" my opposition to any proposal to extend the expressway into the Petrie Terrace-Paddington-Red Hill area. I am thankful to the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads for having indicated quite clearly to the people on the north side of Brisbane that the expressway will not be extended.

With this knowledge, residents in my area who desire to do so have been able to sell their houses, renovate them or extend them. They have been allowed to return to normal suburban life. On the one hand, we are very thankful for the Riverside Expressway; on the other, we oppose strongly its extension into the Paddington area.

The people of Baroona have expressed grave concern at the rumour that the Ithaca

Fire Station is to close its doors. They are doubtful whether the Roma Street Fire Station can adequately look after the Paddington area. I am 100 per cent behind the people of Baroona in their desire to let the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board know that they are opposed most strongly to the proposed closure of the Ithaca Fire Station. I have written to the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs about this matter, and in reply to a question asked of him this week he said that at present no decision to close it has been arrived at. I am hopeful that the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board will reconsider the matter and will allow the fire station to remain open.

The Baroona electorate is serviced by many community groups, and one that I wish to mention in particular is the local Forum. This group came together over a period and formed the Baroona Community Forum. I mention this Forum because it is currently undertaking an out-of-school care programme at the Petrie Terrace State School, which is to be established from 4 October this year. As secretary of the Baroona Community Forum, I recommend its services to the electors of Baroona. I trust that working wives and single-parent families who are a little worried about the care of their children after school will avail themselves of the service to be offered from 4 October at the Petrie Terrace State School.

I could not conclude my speech without referring to the Lang Park Police Youth Club, which is very near and dear to me. When established in 1948 it was the first Police Youth Club in Queensland. It has a current membership of about 600 financial members, and is staffed by two police officers and 12 part-time and full-time civilian employees engaged solely in fund-raising activities. It has been my pleasure for the past 12 months to be president of this Police Youth Club. I was pleased to be given the opportunity to serve the area in this capacity.

This is one area in which I whole-heartedly support the Commissioner of Police. He has finally come to grips with Police Youth Club problems in Queensland. He has accepted a reorganisation programme that has enabled a number of the policemen involved to be promoted, and he is organising a two-week, live-in seminar for police staff attached to Police Youth Clubs throughout Queensland. He must be complimented on his forethought concerning the movement in Queensland.

Although the Commissioner of Police has shown some flair for the police club movement, he has not shown the same flair and ability in his administration of the Juvenile Aid Bureau. I am afraid that the bureau is being denigrated continuously by the police administration. I will stand and be counted in this Chamber and elsewhere—any time, anywhere—when our youth of Queensland are affected. I have said frequently in this House

that it is the responsibility of the Government—and this Government alone—to see that the future of our children remains paramount in our minds. We must ensure that children who come to the notice of the Police Department for the first time are given the benefit of a caution and are not charged before a court.

I am extremely concerned about the effect on residents of the Baroona area of the proposed decentralisation of the Police Department. It has been suggested that the Police Traffic Branch, police mobile patrols and the C. I. Branch should be decentralised in the various police districts of Brisbane. I trust that the Minister for Police will see that the number of motor-cycle and car patrols is not reduced in my electorate. We must ensure that the people of Brisbane, across the board, are given the utmost police supervision of their suburbs so that their life, property and other possessions are safe.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: After the next election you will be back on the beat yourself.

Mr. YOUNG: If I am, the honourable member will be up in Inala doing his old act of strong-arming women and attacking unionists.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. YOUNG: All that the honourable member is good for is leaving his pants at the side of Blunder Road. He raced off, but they caught his shirt-tails.

I urge that street foot patrols in Brisbane be increased. At night, in the city, in Fortitude Valley and even in the Petrie Terrace area, there is a great lack of uniformed police. If the number could be increased, the citizens could take comfort. I hope that police decentralisation will not alter the effectiveness of the Police Force generally in Brisbane.

Mrs. KIPPIN (Mourilyan) (4.30 p.m.): Firstly I wish to reaffirm my loyalty and that of my constituents to Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, and to her family. This loyalty was demonstrated clearly when her representative in Australia (Sir John Kerr) visited my electorate a couple of months ago. He was given a most rousing welcome and I am very proud of the people who organised it. Do you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that my shire council, which of course is Labor dominated, tried until the last minute to withhold from the people the news that Sir John actually intended to visit the area?

I wish to devote my time today to the problems of agriculture in the wet tropics and, in particular, to two of our great primary industries—sugar and beef production. The main problem worrying the sugar producers in this area is the relative drop in productivity. Originally, our Far North Queensland district out-produced every other district in North Queensland. With the expansion of irrigation in the Burdekin area, however, the Far North district fell a little

bit behind that area, but, as the Burdekin had the highest sugar productivity in the world, we were not shamed. The northern district maintained its position until about the mid-1960s, but in the past four years it has slipped to the bottom of the scale, and this is causing considerable concern. The main reason for this is poor drainage. We have well over 120 ins. of rain a year and that is a lot of water to try to get rid of.

With the increased demand for sugar, higher prices and the recent expansion, all available land in my electorate has been brought under production. Some of this land, in its natural state, is far from suitable for agricultural development; hence there is an urgent need for an intensive survey of the drainage needs of the wet tropic belt.

Last year, the Minister for Water Resources (Mr. Neville Hewitt) allocated \$60,000 for an initial over-view study. I am sure it will confirm that drainage of these northern canelands is an excellent national investment proposition. It is essential, however, that more funds be allocated to carry these investigations further. I certainly hope to see a further allocation in the forthcoming Budget because now is the right time to proceed with drainage development.

At this point I wish to give full recognition and praise to those cane farmers in the Tully-El Arish district who have formed themselves into the Northern District Sugar Industry Productivity Group. Each year this group runs a competition and gives awards to farmers who have achieved the best productivity over the year. The competition creates a tremendous amount of interest. The prizes are small but the kudos for winning is immense.

The men in the group have the foresight to realise that this is the right time to proceed with drainage development and are advocating this most strongly to all of the cane farmers in their district. They know that the cane farmers will consider drainage now because they realise that they have to consolidate their industry to ward off prospective falls in profit. The disastrous wet seasons of 1973 and 1975 generated amongst farmers the initiative and the climate for drainage improvement that is necessary to sustain a fairly long-term development programme.

The productivity group is asking not for a hand-out but that the Government join in this move to improve the economy of our State. They believe that this investment would stimulate added unemployment opportunities and also added business confidence in my area.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: This speech came from National Party headquarters.

Mrs. KIPPIN: Let the honourable member just wait. I hope he does not leave before I reach the end of my speech.

There are further good, practical reasons for the Government to become involved in this programme. In the first place, existing

legislation requires drainage works to have the approval of the Irrigation and Water Supply Department. In the second place, Government participation would give access to loan programmes for funds necessary for capital works and it would also provide the administrative and legislative machinery to recover the outlay. In the third place, the Government would be able to ensure that all beneficiaries contributed to the cost of the work programmes involved. This is particularly important.

Those three points are most essential for the co-ordination of drainage works over long strips of the wet tropical coast. At the moment there are a couple of drainage boards in my electorate but they do not really cover a very large area and their benefit to the North is not really significant. Since the granting of additional assignments, I have received a flood of complaints over drainage or, in the main, the lack of it. The present legislation does not cover situations that arise in very wet tropical areas where there are a number of farmers working very closely together; in the main, it is aimed at keeping water on a property rather than getting it off.

I know of many farmers who are seriously affected by the "I'm all right, Jack" attitude of their neighbours. In these cases the neighbouring farms are adequately drained but neighbours will not permit the passage of water from another farm through theirs in order to assist the general drainage of the whole area. There is an urgent need for drainage legislation to help sort out these most serious problems. For this reason I appeal to the Minister for Water Resources to station an officer of his department in Innisfail. He would then be on hand to gain a thorough knowledge of the integral problems of the whole area and he would be able to assist with the formulation of practical and effective legislation.

I also make an appeal to the Minister for Lands that, before further areas of Crown land are subdivided and let out to farmers, consideration be given to the drainage of the area as a whole. It would be much easier to do that than to subdivide the land into small packages, let it out and then try to get half a dozen farmers to agree on how a large area should be drained. I have learnt of this difficulty from experience. Crown land was subdivided and let out in the Mourilyan mill area and there has been nothing but trouble over drainage ever since.

I move now to the problems of the beef industry, in particular those of beef producers in the wet tropics. These producers are, of course, experiencing problems that are common to the rest of the industry. They are simply not receiving an economic return for their product. The lack of funds is accentuating their whole situation. The wet tropical coast is an area in which it is very expensive to produce anything, and beef is no exception. Prices of land are very high; rates are very high; the establishment of

pastures is extremely expensive; and, what is worse still, the maintenance of established pastures is burdensome in the extreme.

It is therefore most important that cattlemen on the wet tropical coast obtain maximum production and get the maximum carrying capacity from their land. However, the lack of profit has caused graziers to restrict their spending to the minimum. This is showing up in the severe and widespread deterioration of improved pastures in this area. It is causing headaches for the officers of the Department of Primary Industries at the South Johnstone research station, but I must give them a lot of credit because they are doing their utmost to impress upon producers that we must not let the fertility of our pastures deteriorate to the point of no return. Of course, this deterioration is due mainly to overgrazing. We are not getting very much for our cattle so we are tending more and more to hold onto them. But coupled with this overgrazing is underfertilising, and this underfertilising is causing the deterioration of the legume content of pastures. The legumes are dying out, which is most unfortunate because it is a fact that legumes provide the cheapest source of nitrogen and once we lose them we need to use extra fertiliser. Once the legumes disappear and the grass becomes shorter, we suffer from tremendous weed infestation.

We have heard a lot about parthenium weed, but I venture to suggest that the problem of weed infestation in the wet tropics at the moment would rival those created by parthenium. However, the D.P.I. officers at South Johnstone are firmly convinced that fertiliser is the answer to the problem, although the trouble lies in convincing the farmer that he must fertilise to retain his pastures. This must bring smiles to the faces of many of our conservationists because in the past the common cause of weed infestation has been herbicide spraying. Fertilising appeals much more to them—and it appeals much more to me, too.

The experimental work of the Department of Primary Industries is most convincing and the South Johnstone research unit has conducted an extensive publicity campaign aimed at all producers. The unit started off with a field day for bank managers, which I found most interesting because most producers are going to need loans to purchase fertiliser in the coming year. The officers did a very good job. There were very few bank managers who left that field day not convinced that there would be a reasonable economic return from fertilising.

The next item on their programme was a field day at Utchee Creek to show producers their experimental plots. This is to be followed up by a field day at King Ranch, where their research results have been put to commercial use. Their research findings are practical, economic and commercially viable, and they appeal to graziers.

We are facing the same problem on our property. As I said, the weed infestation is

becoming quite frightening. I hope there will be many other producers like ourselves who will gather up their courage and start to take the advice of these D.P.I. officers. Too often we criticise them for being unpractical, but they have rather a frustrating life. Here is a group of men who know they have the answer but they just cannot get the industry to accept it at the moment.

While still on the subject of beef, I must say how disappointed I was with the speech of the honourable member for Mackay. I regret that he left the Chamber just before I started to speak, but I hope he is listening in his room. He is capable of making a much better speech than the one he made. With so many problems in the beef industry, his speech condemning people in the industry who have tried to help did nothing to aid the efforts the Government is making. It was obvious to me that his vindictive distortions of the facts were fed to him by the A.L.P. Who else has a vested interest in encouraging a split amongst beef producers?

The honourable member's speech contained much criticism of the liaison between the United Graziers' Association, which for a long time has been the only organisation in the industry, and the Government. That is absolutely ludicrous. It is essential that every industry organisation have good communication with the Government, and the Government must take notice of industry organisations and the wishes of the members of those organisations.

The honourable member for Mackay then went on to criticise the composition of the committee set up by the State Government to inquire into the beef industry, and he criticised the Government members on it. I point out that every Government member on it is actually involved personally in beef production.

He also said that various sections of the industry, such as the retailers and the meatworkers' union, were not represented. I point out that these sections of the industry are making a reasonable profit and are not in a position similar to that of the beef producers. Of course, the committee was set up specifically to look at the problems of beef producers.

The honourable member also criticised the stabilisation scheme that was discussed and finalised only a week ago. Because it has not been to Cabinet, details of that scheme have not yet been released; yet the honourable member for Mackay thought that he knew enough about it to put forward considered criticism. I should like to know who fed him that information. From the text of his speech, I should say that it certainly was not the United Graziers' Association!

The committee has considered all levels of the industry and all parts of the industry. Members of the committee are well aware of the fact that 80 per cent of Queensland's production begins with cattle on the hoof here and ends with meat in boxes overseas. It would be very foolish indeed to

think that the committee would jeopardise the viability of any other section of the industry. Of course, the main aim of the committee was to improve the lot of beef producers.

The honourable member for Mackay then criticised the performance of the Minister for Primary Industries at the Rockhampton meeting of the Cattlemen's Union. I really do not know how he could do that, because he was not there. The Government was very well represented at that meeting. Three Ministers were in attendance—the Minister for Primary Industries, the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Minister for Water Resources. What more appropriate Ministers could there be to attend such a meeting? Two members of the committee—Mr. Sam Doumany and I—also attended that meeting. I am sure we were all very proud of the performance of the Minister for Primary Industries. We went not knowing whether we would be under fire. We went there to explain our attitude to the re-organisation of the Australian Meat Board, and six different proposals were put up on that subject. We were very pleased to see that, after the Minister spent nearly an hour explaining our proposals and answering questions from those present, the meeting adopted unanimously the report of the beef committee set up by the State Government and its proposals for the re-organisation of the Australian Meat Board.

The next criticism in the speech of the honourable member for Mackay was that the Minister did not have the intestinal fortitude to criticise the union at Rockhampton but came home and did it from Brisbane. That was a very unfortunate statement because what happened was not the fault of the Minister. Once again it was the result of misreporting in the Press. When I read what the Press reported I was absolutely horrified. The Minister had not indicated to me in Rockhampton that he felt that the Cattlemen's Union should not form an organisation. When I rang to check with his office I was given the text of the Press release that had been given to the media. Whereas the media reported that the Minister had said that the union should not break away, what he actually said was that he hoped all beef producers would eventually form themselves back into one organisation so they would strengthen their representation at all levels. Everyone involved in politics knows the power of numbers. The Minister made the point of contacting one of the union members and explaining the situation to him. That was accepted in good faith by the union.

The honourable member for Mackay mentioned only the E.E.C. market. To a large extent we have lost that market. He did not mention the Japanese market at all. We have a lot to thank the Premier and Minister for Primary Industries for in this respect. We all know that but for the Premier's "no beef, no coal" initiative we probably

would still not have beef going to the Japanese market. At the same time as the Premier's initiative was under fire in Queensland the Minister for Primary Industries was negotiating in Japan. Honourable members will remember the tirade by the Opposition against the Premier. Those honourable members had very little foresight.

The committee has thoroughly investigated all short-term and long-term aspects of improving the return to beef producers. However, we do realise that it is very important that any scheme introduced should be the right scheme. We have the example of Medibank, a scheme that was not the right scheme but which is being rejuvenated and improved. Medibank is running into a lot of problems, and we do not want to experience that sort of thing in the beef industry.

I am disappointed that the A.L.P. has not had more to say about the beef industry. It maintains that it is going to win back a lot of the country seats from the National Party, but it has a long way to go.

Mr. Frawley: It won't if the honourable member for Archerfield goes around campaigning in country electorates.

Mrs. KIPPIN: I know the honourable member for Warrego welcomes the honourable member for Archerfield in his electorate.

The only initiatives on behalf of the beef industry that have been promulgated by the A.L.P. to this point are proposals that the beef committee put up over 12 months ago. I can remember an occasion when two days of concentrated effort was devoted to forwarding a submission to Senator Wriedt, who was then the Federal Minister for Primary Industry, before the Federal Budget was brought down. Unfortunately, we did not succeed, because as soon as the Federal Minister got wind that we were sending down a proposal which would mean the expenditure of money he initiated an inquiry by the I.A.C. into the beef industry.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Gunn): Order! I would suggest that honourable members on my right hold their special meeting outside the Chamber.

Mrs. KIPPIN: He gave the commission three months to report back, which effectively delayed the presentation of that report until after the Federal Budget. That relieved him of the duty of giving any finance to the beef industry.

Mr. Jensen: Have you finished with Mr. Casey yet?

Mrs. KIPPIN: Yes. I am sorry that the honourable member for Mackay was not here before. I cannot reiterate everything I said, but it will appear in "Hansard" and he will have an opportunity to read it.

Before concluding, I wish to condemn the power strike in North Queensland.

A Government Member: Shame on them!

Mrs. KIPPIN: Shame, all right! Many business houses in North Queensland have had to close their doors and are losing money as a result of the strike. Tremendous inconvenience and upheaval have been caused to householders in the area.

The present serious situation in the North underlines the need for the Government to take a very close look at an alternative means of generating electricity. The honourable member for Cairns criticised the Premier's comment that North Queensland does not have sufficient water supplies to support another hydroelectric scheme. Reports seem to indicate that this is so. I would indicate to the honourable member for Cairns that, although North Queensland has a heavy rainfall in the early part of the year, it has not rained there for the past two months. Admittedly a few points of rain fell a couple of week-ends ago, but the water supply in the rivers of North Queensland is dwindling rapidly. In fact, if the strike continues for much longer and the hydroelectric schemes are called upon to generate much beyond their normal capacity, towards the end of the year the North could face a shortage of water for the generation of electricity. I hope for the sake of the people of North Queensland that the irresponsible employees at Collinsville realise the folly of their actions and return to work.

Mr. JENSEN (Bundaberg) (4.58 p.m.): I join with the citizens of Bundaberg in reaffirming our loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen and her representative in this State, Sir Colin Hannah. I congratulate the new members for Clayfield (Mr. Brown) and Port Curtis (Mr. Prest) and welcome them to the House. I also wish to congratulate the honourable member for Ashgrove on his promotion to the Ministry. I don't know how he made it; he must have been a 100/1 shot. Nevertheless, he is now in the Ministry and therefore receives my congratulations. I congratulate Mr. Knox on his appointment as Treasurer and Mr. Campbell on his elevation to the position of Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party. I do not know whether they will get any further, but as they have been appointed to their very high posts I offer them, too, my congratulations.

As this is the Address-in-Reply debate, I intend to go through the Governor's Opening Speech in detail. At the outset, the Governor praised Sir Gordon Chalk for what he had done for Queensland and also for us as parliamentarians. I am sure that all of us in the House fully appreciate what he has done for the State and for ourselves and would wish him well in his retirement from Parliament. He has not, of course, retired from the business world.

The Governor went on to mention the construction of a dam on the Brisbane River at Wivenhoe. He said that planning had

been carried out by the Co-ordinator-General's Department to augment the water supply to the Brisbane area in the 1980s. All I would say about that is that if the construction of the Wivenhoe Dam proceeds as slowly as the implementation of the Bundaberg Irrigation Scheme, we will not see the completion of the dam before the 1990s.

The Governor said that approximately 75 per cent of land in the area will be submerged when the dam begins to store water by mid-1981. Don't be fooled by that! With the present slow rate of construction, the land will not be submerged for at least 10 years after that date.

His Excellency referred to the upgrading of our coal exports. All of us are aware of the need for this upgrading. Our coal industry is a primary industry, and the primary industries of Queensland are the backbone of the State. The people must be educated to realise that. They do not seem to realise that this country relies for its existence on primary industries. It cannot survive merely on the manufacture of motor-cars, refrigerators, TV sets and washing machines. The people of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, however, seem to think that we derive our income from our manufacturing industries. It is about time they were told the facts of life. The development of this nation has progressed side by side with that of its primary industries. Because our costs will not permit us to compete on the overseas markets, we will not gain those outlets for our manufactured goods.

The Governor said—

"The Government, in its active pursuit of greater efficiency and economy in the electricity supply industry, will introduce legislation . . ."

That is excellent. I only hope that the legislation means cheaper electricity throughout Queensland. Such a proposal was contained in Labor's platform in 1969 and 1972. We said that we would rationalise electricity supply and provide cheaper electricity throughout the State.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr. JENSEN: The honourable member should read what the honourable member for Bulimba said at that time.

Later in his Opening Speech the Governor referred to claims lodged with the Small Claims Tribunal. What he said is true. The Small Claims Tribunal has been an asset to the people of Queensland. I only hope that it continues to operate in the same way.

I am concerned about the Governor's reference to the scheme for providing assistance and encouragement to sport. I dealt with this matter in a speech I made in the Matters-of-Public-Interest debate. I repeat that the Minister has still done nothing for juniors who attend State titles. I

asked that certain money be set aside to subsidise the fares of juniors attending State titles. They are subsidised when they attend Australian titles. Many of Bundaberg's junior soccer players played in the Wide Bay team in the State titles. Two Bundaberg boys are included in Australian teams. I know of no boys who were selected from other Queensland country cities. It cost our junior association some hundreds of dollars to send the Bundaberg players to Townsville, Brisbane and other places to compete in the State trials. Each year boys taking part in soccer, Rugby League, athletics and swimming are sent to State titles. From State titles they graduate to Australian titles and then to the Olympic Games. Much has been said about our failure at the Olympic Games. I shall not dwell on that, but I believe our Olympic team did very well. We cannot expect to beat everybody in the world every year, just as Bundaberg cannot expect to get boys in the Australian team every year.

This morning the honourable member for Marborough asked the Minister for Sport and Tourism how much had been paid to bowls and golf clubs by way of subsidy. I have referred each year to the money paid to these clubs, which run their own raffles, sell their beer at lower prices than hotels and then approach Parliament for the right to make bottle sales as well.

Mr. Frawley: Are you against that?

Mr. JENSEN: Yes, I am against it when they undercut the hotels. They can make their money running raffles and selling beer. The junior sports cannot do that. Last year, if I took the figures down correctly this morning, \$254,000 went to bowls clubs and \$242,000 to golf clubs. From this year's annual report it is seen that this year \$173,000 went to bowls clubs. At 13.1 per cent of the total, that is the highest allocation. The golf clubs received \$104,440. At 7.9 per cent, that is the second-highest allocation. Once again the golf and bowls clubs have the highest and second highest allocations of all sporting clubs in Queensland. But are they real sporting clubs? What do bowls clubs do for junior sport in Queensland? Golf clubs do a little for the junior sport; they train juniors and send juniors away to the golf titles. Both golf and bowls clubs want to sell bottled beer and still get the lion's share of the sporting fund. It is about time members of the Government parties did something about this. The Governor referred to how well the Government was supporting sporting associations. I want it to do more for juniors who attend the State titles. I agree with the Governor's statement.

"The Queensland National Fitness Council for Sport and Physical Recreation continues to provide excellent facilities." It deserves support.

The Governor then said—

"The Department of Commercial and Industrial Development will provide more

personalised service to decentralised industry with the appointment of three regional industry officers."

I hope that one day we will have one in Bundaberg. Just the same, that move will be good for the development of the State. But what has to be done is to relieve small industries of the payment of pay-roll tax. I have spoken about this matter each year. I hope that some relief can be given to small businesses. It is most important that they receive relief so that they can employ more apprentices or juniors in their factories.

The Governor said—

"The Department of Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs is considering the introduction of a long service leave scheme on an industry basis . . ."

This matter has been argued for a long time. We have hoped it would come about. I worked in the sugar industry for 30 years and did not get any long service leave. There is no long service leave in industry generally. But when we do get it, we should also fix standard wages for industry generally. We do not want demarcation strikes.

In the sugar industry, the highest wage is paid to tradesmen and the sugar boiler. That wage is uniform in the sugar industry. It is about time there was a standard wage throughout all spheres of industry. I cannot see why a fitter, a boilermaker, a plumber, an electrician, a carpenter and a bricklayer, in whatever industries they are employed, are not on an equal footing. They are all tradesmen and are concomitant. Each relies on the work of the others to build a house or factory. Why should any one of them be more important to industry? There should be a wage for tradesmen and a higher wage for specialised tradesmen. If that system is not adopted, we will continue to have strikes and demarcation disputes.

I agree with the Governor's remarks about the reorganisation of police regions. I also agree with the suggestion that foot patrols be reintroduced. The sooner that comes about, the better. It is the foot-patrol policeman who knows the people. He walks among the people and talks to them. I have said in this House on previous occasions that the policeman in the motor-car does not know the people and cannot get on with the people. He does not meet the people, whereas the foot-patrol officer does.

A few years ago Bundaberg lost its best policemen because, after 15 years there, they had to be transferred. There was never much crime in Bundaberg in those days because the detectives knew when any newcomer entered Bundaberg. They would simply walk among the people and say, "Have you seen somebody new in the town?" In that way they would have him before he did any damage. Today, the people do not know half of the new policemen there because the police do not get around and do not talk to the people. The detectives are

being changed all the time. In those circumstances, how can detectives get to know the people and obtain information?

It is no good talking about training academics to stop crime, because every time a major crime is committed the Minister for Police—not the present one—advertises for information, although the present Minister for Police is first up with a \$50,000 reward. The detectives used to get that information for the cost of a drink down at the pub, but now, with all of the academics being trained like Sherlock Holmes to solve crimes, the department is getting nowhere. Whenever a crime is committed, an Identikit likeness of the suspect is obtained, but still the criminal cannot be found. Now the department is paying \$50,000 to find suspects.

The day we regain our common sense and adopt the system of foot patrols that once prevailed, when policemen were accepted as our friends and as men on whom we could rely, we might have more crimes solved.

The Governor said also—

"My Ministers advise that some \$39 million was spent in the past year by the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission on the development of water resources."

I do not intend to say much about irrigation, but we know that the Bundaberg Irrigation Undertaking is lagging behind schedule. It was to have been completed in 1976-77. Only Phase 1 of Stage I of the scheme will be completed by 1980. One year of drought costs industry in Bundaberg between \$50,000,000 and \$60,000,000. But we cannot get another \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000 to finish even parts of the scheme. It was to be completed for an amount of \$21,000,000. As a result of this procrastination, the cost has escalated to over \$30,000,000. It has been going on for too long. When a scheme is started an effort should be made to get it finished before others are started and money is handed out all over the place. The scheme is too far behind. A drought next year would cost the industry \$50,000,000, and about 75 per cent to 80 per cent of sugar now produces export income. It is about time the Government woke up to this situation.

For the information of the House I shall read the last part of a newspaper editorial on 13 August. It said—

"If something is not done quickly by either the State or the Commonwealth the outlook is a melancholy one. In the eyes of the public, there would stand works already costing nearly \$25 million of public funds and no effective use being made of them; a massive water storage would lie virtually unused, only a few miles from the farms needing that water, and hundreds of farmers being ready to pay for it. What they will think if a severe drought occurs within a couple of years does not bear contemplation."

That is quite true. The scheme should have been finished this year. The last drought was

in 1969, and this scheme could have been completed before another came if the work had been carried on.

The Governor then went on to deal with the electrification of the railways. I must say, after being in Japan and seeing the electric trains in that country, that some advice on electrification should have been sought from Japanese experts. In Japan one can travel by train the distance between Bundaberg and Brisbane in two hours. It takes me from 10.30 at night till 7 o'clock the following morning to make that trip. When it takes 8½ hours to travel the distance that can be travelled in Japan in two, something needs to be done about it.

Mr. Powell: That is if they are on time.

Mr. JENSEN: If a train in Japan is a minute or two late, an apology is made to the passengers. I can walk on the station at Bundaberg at 20 past 10 and find there is no train there, even though I may have been told half an hour before that it would be on time. On making inquiries 20 minutes later, one is told, "Oh, it'll be here soon." In Japan an apology is made if the train is a couple of minutes late. If it is 10 minutes late it will be rammed from behind by another train travelling at 140 miles an hour. But here there is no apology if passengers have to wait in the cold for half an hour because the train has been held up somewhere. No-one in the railways seems to know from one minute to the next what is happening to the train.

I have noticed whilst coming to Brisbane by train that the interchange facilities at suburban stations have improved. I have noticed that from Petrie into the city there are car-parking facilities that were never there before. I know that area quite well because I once lived there. It has been improved considerably.

The honourable member for Cairns mentioned air fares and the cost of air travel to his area. The Governor also mentioned tourism in Queensland. It is certainly time that some thought was given to air fares in this State and nation. In Western Australia people say, "Why go to Sydney or Brisbane? We can fly to Singapore for the week-end and do shopping cheaply. We don't want to fly to Brisbane or Sydney. The fares are too high and accommodation is too dear. We would sooner fly to Singapore." Internal air fares are too high for the good of tourism. There should be tourist fares throughout Australia.

The Governor also mentioned the new Bill to be introduced concerning the fishing industry. It must be regarded as very important to be mentioned in that speech. The Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries is at present in the House. From what he said the other day, I think he will be known as the "Minister for Tiddlers." A couple of months ago he was going to allow the kids to take home the little fish they catch, but he has changed his mind again. A poor little kid cannot take home a

tiddler to show mummy what he caught. He cannot even take it home to give it to the cat.

Mr. Newbery: He can now.

Mr. JENSEN: It's changed again? That's very good. Then I will not call him the "Minister for Tiddlers." I was going to tell him that if I went out fishing with my grandson and he caught a little fish, nobody in the world would take it from him; he would take it home. So I am very pleased to see that somebody has talked some sense into the Minister.

I liked what the Governor said in his Opening Speech about harbours. We want to see the Burnett Heads harbour completed as soon as possible, and I know the Minister is with me on that.

I want to mention the development of North Queensland. I see that the honourable member for Mourilyan has left the Chamber. I wanted to ask her why beef is so expensive in Japan. We are always talking about the Japanese market. I think the position with beef is a little like what occurred with our sugar exports, the big rake-off went to the refineries in Japan. When I was in Japan recently, I found that all meat is sold in portions of 100 g, which is less than a quarter of a pound. I think 453.6 g is the equivalent of 1 lb. When we worked out the price we found that mince was \$10 a lb.; steak was \$16 a lb. and the special beer-fattened steak was \$20 a lb. Why is beef bringing those prices in Japan? We are supposed to be exporting beef to Japan, yet we are not getting anywhere near that price. Let the Government's beef barons get onto that.

Our sugar industry was similarly affected because the refineries in Japan were putting their own price on the sugar after they had purchased it from us. They are doing it with beef. The people in Asia are hungry for beef. What hurt us most on our trip was the people of different countries asking us why we paid our farmers to shoot cattle when those people are starving for beef. This was featured on their television and radio and in the newspapers. They asked us why we were paying Australians to shoot cattle and then burying them. To the Indonesians it was a scandal, and we copped it in Singapore, Japan and Korea. Those countries want our beef, and yet we are talking about the problems of our beef industry. We are told that those countries want to take us over, and it will not be long the way this country is going.

Mr. Ahern: It is their Government's fault.

Mr. JENSEN: It probably is their Government's fault, but something has to be ironed out about beef prices, the same way we ironed out the problems in the sugar industry. The beef industry is facing serious problems and yet the Japanese are paying \$10 a lb. for mince. I did not eat meat over there; I did not know whether it was buffalo or not.

I now want to talk about the new designs in building which will necessitate changes in teaching techniques. A couple of weeks ago I saw the new prefabricated building at the new North Bundaberg High School. This prefabricated classroom is worth about \$20,000. It has carpeted floors and sliding glass windows. The teachers in the school are fighting for the right to use that classroom; they would rather use it than the classrooms in the main building. These prefabricated classrooms, which cost \$20,000, are as big and as comfortable as a pre-school which costs \$100,000.

It was said in the Opening Speech that about 70 new pre-schools will be constructed. The Works Department could provide five prefabricated classrooms for use as pre-schools at a cost of \$20,000 each instead of constructing one pre-school at a cost of \$100,000 and this would mean an additional 350 pre-schools this year instead of 70. All the department would have to do would be to build little toilets and washbasins on the side of the classroom, which would bring the cost up to about \$25,000 as against \$100,000, in other words, about a quarter of the cost.

We now have a pre-school in almost every section of Bundaberg. Most of them cater for 50 children in the morning and 50 children in the afternoon. They were built at a cost of about \$100,000 each, but they are exactly the same size as the new prefabricated classrooms. Works Department spokesmen talk about saving money, and yet this goes on. I wanted to raise the subject today because it is most important.

The Works Department can look at providing permanent structures if and when the money becomes available, but people want pre-schools now. We have them in Bundaberg and I do not see why other places should not have them. I do not see why we should have to spend \$100,000 on a little pre-school.

Towards the end of the Opening Speech the Governor mentioned that a Bill to provide housing for certain Crown employees will be introduced during this session. I believe in the provision of more homes. The Works Department purchased homes in Bundaberg on the site of the proposed new technical college and people were put out of those homes. Before they could be put up for sale for removal so that additional grounds and parking areas could be made available for boys attending the technical college, teachers asked for permission to live in them. Teachers from the technical college were allowed to live in them after the former occupants had been kicked out. Those teachers have not made any effort to move out—one has been there since before Christmas, in what is supposed to be temporary accommodation—and it is about time they were pushed out and made to look for other accommodation. Other people have to do it. Preference is always given to teachers, and eventually they have to be pushed out.

Originally, the Works Department would not allow them to go into the houses, but the teachers went to the Public Service Board and got permission to go in. As I said, it is about time they were pushed out.

Let me turn now to primary industries, which I have called the backbone of this country. Honourable members opposite know as well as I do that Australia is being priced out of its overseas markets. Income from primary industries in Queensland is about \$2,000 million a year, and I read in a newspaper yesterday—I think it was the Bundaberg newspaper—that the National Bank says that the drop in Queensland's export income this year will be about 16 per cent. No-one seems to want to educate the people on this subject. It is all very well to say it, but somebody has to convince people that these industries produce the revenue on which we live.

This country does not derive revenue from overseas from the manufacture of motor-cars, refrigerators or television sets. Australia had to borrow \$324,000,000 about a month ago from the International Bank and \$200,000,000 from America in June. Now it is proposed to borrow another \$300,000,000 from Germany to keep up our overseas balances. What has happened? Australia, perhaps the greatest primary-exporting country in the world, is having to borrow overseas because it is losing its markets.

The honourable member for Fassifern asked whether the Australian dollar should be devalued. Yesterday's "Telegraph" mentioned devaluation. The value of the Australian dollar has declined by 16 per cent in two years. The Whitlam Government brought it down by about 7 per cent, and it has since gone down by about another 9 per cent. Devaluation has taken place in the past, and it will be necessary to devalue the Australian dollar again if this country is to retain its overseas trade. It is very important for people to know this.

Probably 95 per cent of Australians do not read the financial pages in the newspapers. They are like members of this Parliament in that respect. They look at the front page to see who has been killed, then turn to the sports page and read about racing and the pools. How many members of this Assembly read the financial pages in the newspapers to learn something about mini-Budget predictions and whether or not the dollar should be devalued? They do not read them.

Unless the workers of this country are educated by somebody pretty soon, it will be taken over. Yesterday Hawke tried to stop the strike on the waterfront by resolving a demarcation dispute between the Transport Workers' Union and the wharfies. If it is not the Transport Workers' Union on strike, it is the Storemen and Packers' Union. It goes on day after day, reducing the country's export income. When Hawke tried to clear it up, they took no notice of him. Somebody has to educate the workers.

Let us send some of the union heads to Indonesia and other places that members of this Parliament visited recently. Let them see how the people in those countries live and work and how much money they receive. Let them see whether they would like to have similar conditions here when Indonesia or Japan takes Australia over. They would not like it, but they may have to take it. Japan could finish with Australian sugar, beef and coal in a couple of years, and it has already said, "We won't stand it much longer. If Australia cannot deliver on time and if prices are not right, we will buy elsewhere." Japan is Australia's biggest market, and we must do something about it.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. JENSEN: We must educate the workers in some way, perhaps by sending them overseas. If that cannot be done, newsreels and lectures showing the conditions in other countries should be shown and given in the factories. Let us show our people that we are living in a paradise. Of course, it's a fool's paradise. Let them go over and see the other countries and decide whether they would like to live there. Let them go to China. Some of my colleagues went there. Would they like to live in China under the conditions there? Let them stand and say so. Japan has better conditions than most Asian countries, even though she was smashed to pieces during the war, but Japan still has got nothing like our conditions. The Japanese work 10 hours a day six days a week. Some overseas workers even work 10 hours a day seven days a week. Some of our people say they want that type of Government or that type of rule, but I don't want it here. I don't want it for my children or my grandchildren. It is about time somebody woke them up. Let us tell these people that we don't live on refrigerators and TV sets. We have lived without them before, and we will be living without them before long if we lose our overseas markets. We have been given the warning about our overseas markets, but nobody seems to be taking any notice.

I know Mr. Hawke tries to do the right thing when things go too far. But now some unions are defying him completely. They have no concern about anything; they feel that what they think is most important to this country. I don't think it is very important. They want to continue with the demarcation strike on the wharves and prevent our delivery dates from being met. Let them look out in a few years' time! I don't want the type of rule that certain other countries have. I have seen it and I don't want it. I know that people in those countries don't want it, either. They would love to have what we've got here. They would love to have our living conditions with homes and everything else, instead of having whole families living in bare rooms.

The unions have to learn somehow by some new method of education. All we have seen lately has been wage rises or strikes. Somebody mentioned the power strike. The unions

want another \$10 a day. I don't mind anybody getting fair wages. People can talk about me. I will get up on that one. But \$10 a day at Collinsville! What about the other cities? Collinsville is not such a bad place to live in. What about Charleville or Cloncurry?

Mr. Moore: What is wrong with Charleville?

Mr. JENSEN: Nothing. If they are worth that in Collinsville, aren't they worth that much in other cities, too? Why should the Collinsville workers strike for \$10 a day? Why don't they all go out? If one gets it, they should all get it. They were knocked back by the Industrial Commission and now they are going to hold out on their fellow workers. They don't care very much about them. They say, "We don't care. None of us care." I believe that the station hands are on a 44-hour week and poorly paid. The unions are fighting for a 35-hour week now while the station hands are working a 44-hour week. They don't care about their fellow man. The way I was brought up a man fought for his mate. Today there is no such thing as a mate. Go for everything yourself, and to hell with the others. "If I can get another \$60 a week, I don't care two hoots about my mate." That is today's attitude. When he becomes unemployed, you don't worry about him. It's a case of, "I'm all right, Jack." That's the attitude.

We have to start thinking of our fellow man, but will we ever do it under our present system? I can't see it unless there is some re-education of people who try to run us down. What does socialism really mean? They are all talking socialism, but they don't know the first thing about it. They don't care too hoots about their mates. I would like to have the ability to educate them, but I haven't got that ability. I think Hawke has, but by the time he gets around to—

Mr. Ahern: The way you are going you will get National Party endorsement.

Mr. JENSEN: I don't want any of the National Party's endorsement.

What about investment in industry? They don't care about that, either. They're not game to invest in a capitalist industry where the employment is, but they invest in building societies and credit unions. Even the trade union movement whacked its money in but, as soon as there looked like being trouble, it raced along to get its money out first—to hell with the others!

The trade unions didn't mind taking 9½ per cent interest from their workers who want to build homes, but as soon as another company pays 9½ per cent to the shareholders who invest risk capital in it to develop this country, those trade unions raise a hue and cry. Union officials think it is quite all right to take 9½ per cent from their members, their mates, who are trying to build homes, and the moment any trouble seems likely, they dive in to get their money out, and to hell with their mates. I referred to them in this House as little capitalists, and for that

I was condemned by someone in Bundaberg. I wrote to the editor stating that that is all they were—little capitalists who didn't care two hoots about their mates.

The unions complain about capitalism and profits made by industry. We never hear them talking about investment in the capitalist industries that develop this country. Workers do not understand that their contributions to workers' compensation, insurance and super-annuation schemes are invested in these companies. The funds do not stay in the bank and rot. They are invested, and their money grows and is paid to them when they are sick or when they retire. They are invested in these overseas companies, such as Utah. This money is the workers' money; but they do not seem to know that. We must educate them. Who will go out and tell these people that they are only fighting against themselves?

Union officials want a dictatorship rule, such as that in Indonesia, and a Communist rule, such as that in China; they want another kind of dictatorship, such as that in Japan and Korea. What do they need to see to learn? That's what I want to know.

Mr. Elliott: They've never been better off.

Mr. JENSEN: Never been better off. I believe that this Parliament would do well to send six union officials to have a look at what goes on in other countries. They would come back, as I did, disillusioned, cynical and critical. Let them see for themselves and let them be asked, "Are those the conditions you want?" Let them talk with the people who spoke with us, and then let us ask those union officials, "Are those the conditions you want in this country?" I know what they want; they want to take over this country. I hope they are not going to take over my children and grandchildren. I don't care two hoots about myself; my life is just about over. I am concerned, however, for those workers who think of their children.

Mr. Frawley: You're going along like a train.

Mr. JENSEN: Maybe I am, but someone has to do something, and the sooner the better. I am calling on the heads of our trade unions that have the control of this party to do something. Mr. Hawke is trying to do something; but is the Storemen and Packers' Union trying to do anything?

Government Members: No!

Mr. JENSEN: Is the Transport Workers' Union trying to do anything?

Government Members: No!

Mr. JENSEN: The unions would say, "Cause more hold-ups on the wharves. Don't take any notice of Bob Hawke. Hold up our exports."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller): Order! I would ask the honourable member to address the Chair.

Mr. JENSEN: I am sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Aren't you interested in this?

Mr. Lamont: Ask us another question?

Mr. JENSEN: I am only trying to be fair and to get people to understand that something must be done.

I would not give privileges to any section or any class. I know of a former employee in the Railway Department who, after 30 or 40 years' service, was charged in court because he was found to have a packet of tobacco and a packet of cigarette papers on him and it was alleged that he had stolen them from a shop. He denied the charge, but he was convicted of stealing. For that he lost his job and lost all his accrued pay. He was finished completely.

Mr. Lamont: Did he lose his job over it?

Mr. JENSEN: The honourable member knows that that is provided for in the Act.

Last year I referred to the cases of two workers in the Railway Department at Bundaberg who had been employed for over nine months. The Railway Department found out that some years ago when they were 17 they had been convicted of some petty offence, so it dismissed them immediately. I referred their case to the Minister and complained that what happened was totally wrong. They did not steal from the Railway Department.

Mr. Powell: Did the union go out on strike?

Mr. JENSEN: No. Does the Transport Workers' Union go out on strike when a truck-driver in Bundaberg is fined for drink-driving and loses his licence for two years?

Government Members: No.

Mr. JENSEN: Does it go out when a taxi-driver loses his licence?

Government Members: No.

Mr. JENSEN: And that is a conviction!

I do not think any favouritism should be shown to school-teachers in the light of the way they are treating families of other employees. They think they are a privileged community but so far as I am concerned they are not. The truck-driver should be just as privileged, and the railway worker should be more privileged.

Mr. Moore: That is right. A railway worker who picks up a spud from the ground is "pinched" and loses his job.

Mr. JENSEN: He can lose his long service leave and all entitlements over 40 years. Honourable members know that as well as I do. It is called double penalty. We fought against the double penalty in this House. We wanted a person who was convicted of drink-driving to be given permission to drive between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., but we were knocked cold on that. We have never believed in double penalties. I

cannot accept that there should be one system for the teachers and another for the railway workers.

(Time expired.)

PAPER

The following paper, by leave, was laid on the table:—

Regulation under the Art Unions and Amusements Act 1976.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

ART UNIONS AND AMUSEMENTS ACT REGULATIONS

Hon. W. D. LICKISS (Mt. Coot-tha—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (5.38 p.m.), by leave: I wish to make it perfectly clear that the Art Unions and Amusements Regulations, which became operative in Queensland on 1 August 1976, were not designed to penalise any individual organisation operating in that field but were introduced to assist those organisations. The object in devising the new regulations was to simplify fund-raising procedures for those various organisations and associations—organisations and associations which, I might add, work tremendously hard to raise money for the betterment of the community at large.

At the same time we have a responsibility to ensure that the regulations afford a proper measure of protection for both the associations and the public who so generously support them. This protection should be capable of achievement without imposing heavy administrative requirements either on the organisation or on the Government. In other words we want to reduce paperwork as far as possible while still retaining efficiency.

It is only to be expected when regulations of this nature are brought down incorporating significant changes that some anomalies will occur. Certain anomalies have been brought to my attention and it is desirable that these should be corrected immediately. Concern is being expressed in relation to minor art unions and the cost thereof to those associations raising funds for the charitable, religious and educational purposes included in regulation 16. To name but a few—Q.A.T.B., schools and surf life saving clubs.

Honourable members will have already realised the benefits to be derived in the administrative aspects from the running of art unions under the new regulations. There has been a tremendous reduction in paperwork and processing of repetitive applications. It is, however, reasonable to assume that costs to the Government in the administration of art unions should in the main be borne by those art unions. The conduct of the Art Union Office still has to be met as a public expense.

I, and I am sure all honourable members of the House consider that, although the

revised system presently existing is a vast improvement, the request by these associations for further relief in terms of the payment of 3 per cent of the net proceeds as the registration fee is worthy of consideration.

It is further realised that the 3 per cent funding is a drain on funds which would otherwise be used for the purpose of the association in assisting very worth-while causes.

In line with the spirit of the regulations which were formulated to encourage associations to raise funds, and not in any way to obstruct them, I have recommended to the Government that the regulations which became operative on 1 August 1976 in relation to minor art unions be further amended so that the 3 per cent registration fee payable on minor art unions by these associations whose purposes come within the ambit of regulation 16 will now be withdrawn completely. This will be replaced by a registration fee set at a standard figure of \$5 for each association for each year. I am sure that this will be favourably received by all honourable members of the House.

This will mean that an association running minor art unions for any of the purposes listed in regulation 16 will pay a maximum of \$5 regardless of the amount raised during the 12-month period. No other fee will be payable. I believe that this will be acceptable to those associations as an expression of the Government's good faith so far as the people of Queensland are concerned in relation to their very worth-while activities.

At the same time it has been decided that the associations which are not included in regulation 16 should also be given some relief. It is proposed to do this by reducing the present registration fee of 6 per cent of the net proceeds raised from minor art unions to 5 per cent of the net proceeds raised.

I am sure that all honourable members will agree that this concession will be welcomed by members of these associations and the public generally.

For the information of honourable members, I have copies of the Queensland Government Gazette Extraordinary issued today.

COOKTOWN CONVICTIONS

Hon. W. D. LICKISS (Mt. Coot-tha—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (5.42 p.m.), by leave: I have just been advised by the Crown Solicitor that on information now available, the convictions recorded at Cooktown were nullities.

The position was that at Cooktown, there is a clerk of the court who is permanently an acting stipendiary magistrate by virtue of the isolation of Cooktown. The occupant of that office, Mr. W. J. Randall, was absent on leave at the relevant time. A clerk in the office, a Mr. M. Arrowsmith, was

appointed acting clerk of the court and warden. However, he was not appointed acting stipendiary magistrate.

Mr. Arrowsmith, apparently on the assumption that he had authority, determined the charges.

I am advised that as Mr. Arrowsmith was not in fact an acting stipendiary magistrate, he did not have jurisdiction to deal with the offences and any convictions and orders consequent thereon are nullities, that is to say, they had no legal effect whatsoever. Immediate action is being taken to give directions to release all persons in prison. All fines will be remitted.

Further action will be contingent on consideration of all the circumstances.

I desire to emphasise that the releases of the people concerned are made solely on the basis of lack of jurisdiction and not because of any consideration of the rights or wrongs of the individual cases or any circumstances surrounding the matters as a whole.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

Mr. LOWES (Brisbane) (5.44 p.m.): I welcome this opportunity to reaffirm my allegiance, together with the allegiance, affection and loyalty of the people of Brisbane, to the Throne and Person of Her Majesty the Queen and, if I may be permitted to borrow from that sweet language of the 17th Century, "All those who are put in authority under her." It is at this point that the Government parts company with the members of Her Majesty's Opposition. Although they stand here and pledge their loyalty to the Crown, they attempt to distinguish between the monarchy in person and the monarchy in its role in government and specifically the throne.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: We support Oliver Cromwell.

Mr. LOWES: I am reminded of the comments of the honourable member for Archfield when he has referred to the office of our State vice-regal representative, Sir Colin Hannah, as a sinecure, a useless anachronism and a relic of a mediaeval past. The words that he has used in referring to the Governor-General of Australia are terms that I do not think worth repeating in this House.

In Western Australia the Labor Party has shown its attitude to the monarchy by declaring that if returned to power it will arrange the abolition of the office of Governor. In the meantime, whilst awaiting the abolition of the powers of that appointment, it would leave the position of Governor of that State vacant. In South Australia, under a Labor Government led by Mr. Dunstan, the Governor has been made a political scapegoat. I believe that Sir Douglas Nicholls has been embarrassed by the activities of Mr. Dunstan.

In the light of these collective acts and statements made by the Labor Party in various States, one must wonder how sincere are the members of Her Majesty's Opposition in this Chamber when they pledge their allegiance and loyalty to the Crown. One wonders how interested they really are in the preservation of the parliamentary system as we know it. From the speech of the honourable member for Bulimba this morning in which he spoke about the Constitutional Convention from which the Government, in its wisdom, decided to absent itself last year, one would be led to believe that he was in favour of the retention of constitutional government.

To ascertain the true intention of members of the Opposition one needs to look at their track performance and to see what they have done. Their words differ. Some speak in favour of the monarchy, some against it. What have they done? What do they believe to be the position of governments? Some 50-odd years ago—in 1921-22—we saw what they did in this State. After ascertaining the wishes of the people by a referendum—and the people demonstrated how they felt about the Upper House, as the vote showed a majority of 50 per cent in favour of its retention—the then Labor Government showed its regard for the democratic process by stacking the Upper House sufficiently to ensure its abolition.

That may be somewhat ancient history. Let us therefore come to 1975, in which the people gave another decision at a general election. I heard someone—I think it was the honourable member for Cairns—say, "What about the Senate figures?" Well, what about them? Let us look at the Senate figures at the last general election. Let us look, too, at the House of Representatives figures and the result of that election. There is now in Canberra a Government with a majority of 55 and a majority in the Upper House. The will of the people was made very clear. But still there are complaints and demonstrations and people who refer in shocking terms to the Governor-General, who did no more than carry out the duties with which he was entrusted.

So we have to look at the terms of the appointment of the Governor-General and the rules under which he functions. I am sure most members of this Parliament have read the article "The Dissolution of the Australian Parliament: 11 November 1975", which appeared in the January edition of "The Parliamentarian". It was prepared by Professor D. P. O'Connell, who went into the political state of the nation early in 1975. He said—

"During the early part of 1975 a public scandal erupted over attempts by the Treasurer, Dr. Cairns, to raise the vast sum of four billion dollars on the international loan market through unconventional agencies and outside the legal framework for the raising of loan monies."

Only a short while ago the honourable member for Bundaberg spoke about money being raised overseas in such countries as Germany and Switzerland—places in which the Australian and State Governments have raised money in the past, where they have a continuing contact with sources of money. But they were not the sources from which the Treasurer of the day, Dr. Cairns, then sought to obtain a loan of \$4,000 million. The article continues—

“It was generally believed that the funds thus raised would be employed in a scheme for the transfer to Australian ownership of the mineral interest in foreign corporations. . . . But another explanation was suggested in a letter to the Melbourne Age of 11 July 1975 by a Professor C. Howard, who had until shortly before he wrote this letter been a special constitutional consultant to Senator Murphy, the Labor Attorney-General, whom he included in his denunciations in this letter. He wrote:

“No one has yet given a credible reason why the sum sought to be raised in the loans affair was so large. Attention has been distracted by the naive and secretive methods adopted, by the evasion of the Financial Agreement and by the fate of Dr. Cairns.

“Yet it seems to me that the size of the sums involved reveals the probable truth of the whole business, for they are of budgetary proportions. . . . In my view the loans scheme was simply an attempt to open up an extra-parliamentary source of supply which would be available, not, to be sure, to bypass Parliament forever, but to keep a Government afloat for a long enough time to ride out the threat of another forced election.”

So much for the regard the Labor Party in power had for the status of Parliament! So much for its regard for parliamentary government!

This morning the honourable member for Bulimba referred to constitutional conventions. He is a person obviously concerned about the Constitution and abiding by convention—yet that was the convention sought to be followed in the Federal House last year. Professor O’Connell went on to say—

“Although it was widely canvassed, the theory of a constitutional convention on the subject of Supply in Australia is not readily sustainable. For a constitutional convention to arise which would, in effect, alter the intentment of the written text of the Constitution there would have to be a practice to that effect supported by a general consensus. While it is true that the Senate had not previously rejected Supply, the constitutional theorists had never previously propounded a theory on the basis of this self denial, which was explicable by political circumstances. And the Labor Party, which in 1975 was so assiduous in cultivating the supposed convention, had,

when in Opposition in 1970, voted in the Senate against Supply legislation on the theory of the Senate’s independent role.

“Speaking in the House of Representatives on 12 June 1970 in the debate on the States’ Receipts Duties (Administration) Bill, Mr. Whitlam (then Leader of the Opposition) said: ‘This Bill and its associated Bills will be rejected by Parliament. This Bill will be defeated in another place. The Government should then resign.’”

That is what Mr. Whitlam had to say in 1970. Of course, by 1975 he had changed his mind, and the same Mr. Whitlam, I believe, lost any credibility which he might ever have had when he made that unfortunate statement about Sir John Kerr on the steps of Parliament House in Canberra.

One does not need to rely totally on what Mr. Whitlam said. One can refer to the Opposition’s manifesto, and that was fairly well stated by Mr. Cameron when he was in New Delhi after only one year in government. He said that during the first year of Labor Government there had been a greater re-distribution of wealth in Australia than had ever been brought about in any country without revolution. And that is in keeping with what Senator Wheeldon said at about the same time. He said—

“The distribution of wealth and resources in Australia means we cannot expect to achieve anywhere near true social justice until there has been substantial changes in the means of control of production, distribution and exchange.”

That is the A.L.P. manifesto.

What happened? We had three years of Labor administration—or maladministration—in Canberra. What was the result of it? Did we finish up with the millennium? Did we finish up with an A.L.P. Utopia of some kind? What happened in that three-year period of maladministration? Inflation rose from 4 per cent to somewhere about 20 per cent; interest rates rose from 7 per cent to 11 per cent; and, most unfortunately of all, unemployment rose from approximately 2 per cent to about 5 per cent. Those increases are still continuing, unfortunately, because on 13 December 1975, which is not so very long ago, the present Federal Government picked up a very sorry legacy from three years of Labor maladministration in Canberra.

In pledging loyalty to the Crown, one does not necessarily mean that one regards Britain as the Mother Country. In fact, in the electorate of Brisbane many of the electors would not regard Britain as the Mother Country. However, I believe that it is not necessary to be Anglo-Saxon to be an Anglophil, and I would declare myself to be an Anglophil.

We are, in fact, grateful to Great Britain for giving us our system of freely elected Parliament, our system of law and our system of civil service, all of which are free of corruption. When I say it is not necessary to be an Anglo-Saxon to be an Anglophil, I

am reminded of the Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, who, because Singapore was the host Government, was in the chair at a meeting of Governments of Commonwealth countries. On the first day he heard a great deal about the Third World, and he reminded the meeting that, after all, there were continents and worlds other than the Third World of Africa. On a later day—and this is the time I have in mind—he listened for some considerable time to lengthy criticism by the Third World nations of Great Britain. Having heard that criticism, he reminded the meeting that, had it not been for Great Britain, instead of sitting there chairing the meeting of representatives of Commonwealth Parliaments, he might well have been a sailor on a Russian warship steaming into Singapore Harbour to kiss the feet of some Communist dictator. So obviously Mr. Lee has reason to be grateful to Great Britain for the legacies that have accrued to Singapore from British occupation, and I believe that we in Queensland, too, have similar reasons for being grateful to Great Britain.

When the Address-in-Reply debate takes place, it is time to review the state of affairs within one's electorate. In the electorate of Brisbane there is concern for all those who are still unemployed. Every member of the Government is interested in and has sympathy for the unemployed.

[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.15 p.m.]

Mr. LOWES: Before the dinner recess I was expressing the concern of the Government for the unemployed throughout the State. Because we believe that from employment flows prosperity, our commitment is to a policy of full employment.—in contrast with the policies of the Labor Party and the statements of Senator Wheelton to which I referred earlier. The A.L.P. believes in the control of production, distribution and exchange. What was the result of that in the three years it held Government? If there was in fact any change in the distribution of wealth, who received it? Very little evidence exists of betterment for the public at large.

There may be some evidence of increased profits by people such as Ken Myer, who is one of the signatories to that infamous letter. But did the textile workers, for instance, benefit by the redistribution of wealth, or did they find themselves among the ranks of the unemployed? Or did people such as Peter Wilenski, Al Grassby and Ms. Reid, who lined up for jobs for the boys, benefit? Perhaps they benefited by the redistribution of wealth during the period of the Labor Government. If they did, certainly the unemployed school-leavers didn't. When Labor had a chance to introduce these philosophies and make them work, the result was not that which one might expect to see. It had its chance and it failed.

I will not use the language that Mr. Whitlam used when he was speaking about his

former Speaker. He failed there, as his party failed in its period of government. Now it is back to us, and we are running the country profitably and sensibly. With the Budget introduced by Mr. Phillip Lynch I am sure we will emerge from the morass in which we found ourselves at the end of 1975.

Mr. Houston: What about some State policies?

Mr. LOWES: I think it has been recognised by all that the States, to a large extent, certainly fiscally, depend upon Canberra.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! There is too much audible conversation, with too many interjections.

Mr. LOWES: The States are dependent on Canberra. The result of what went on in Canberra is unfortunately seen in the unemployment queues, with people standing outside the St. Vincent de Paul and Salvation Army rooms. Those are the problems that are visited upon the States owing to a lack of husbandry in Canberra. However, I believe there is cause for hope. There is evidence that the trend evident as late as December last year is being reversed.

I refer particularly to the evidence of the building societies. Only last month some \$11,000,000 worth of work was approved by one building society alone—a record for that society—despite the fact that last year the honourable member for Archerfield did everything within his power to wreak havoc in the building society industry. Despite what happened then, the building society finances are recovering, and last month the Metropolitan Permanent Building Society had a record month for lending approvals. Its ambition is to lend \$10,000,000 each month. Building societies have been reinstated to the position that they so properly deserve to hold. People once again have faith in them. This Government took all necessary steps to overcome the harm that was done by such irresponsible people as the honourable member for Archerfield. The people of Queensland are satisfied with the building societies and are quite sure that their money is safe. The contingency fund was set up to protect the people.

From now on the people will continue to come back to the building societies and deposit money with them, and they, in turn, will lend it to borrowers. The result will be that the building trade, which is one of the first to fall in any financial recession, will receive the support that it so rightly deserves from the building societies.

A true barometer of the financial stability of the nation and the confidence of the people in it is the amount collected through stamp duty and conveyancing duty. If we look at the figures we will see that in 1972-73 during which period on 2 December 1972 there was a change of Government in Canberra, such receipts totalled \$66,000,000; in 1973-74,

before the full effect of the bad management in Canberra had been felt in Queensland, the figure dropped by \$1,000,000 to \$65,000,000.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. LOWES: I would correct the figure in relation to stamp duty. In 1972-73 the amount was \$52,800,000, and in 1973-74, before the full effect of the bad management of the Canberra regime was felt, it rose to \$63,200,000. However, by 1974-75, by which time the confidence of the people had been sapped, receipts from stamp duty dropped to \$48,600,000. For the year just concluded, 1975-76, the sum is estimated to be \$74,500,000, or an increase in only one year of \$26,000,000.

Of the amount in 1974-75, \$18,000,000 represented conveyancing duty on transfer and mortgage documents, and in 1975-76 the figure rose to \$29,500,000. Surely this is a barometer of the confidence of the people in the decision given by the people on 13 December last year.

The Lynch Budget has already been shown to be the desired remedy for the ills that beset us at the beginning of the year. It is directed at the private sector, without any apology whatever. It is recognised—even the honourable member for Bundaberg recognised it—that the private sector employs approximately 75 per cent of the work-force. To get the people back to work, to reduce unemployment and to restore happiness in the community we must support the private sector. That is what is happening. As the Lynch Budget gathers momentum we will see re-employment and a reduction in the number of the unemployed. At the end of this year we will see school-leavers obtaining employment instead of joining the ranks of the unemployed and asking for the dole.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! There is too much conversation in the Chamber.

Mr. LOWES: This Government believes in the joint development of both the private and the public sectors. It has a fine record of support of the public sector.

In the electorate of Brisbane alone works of a total cost in excess of \$100,000,000 are proceeding at the present time. I refer firstly to No. 7 block at the Royal Brisbane Hospital, which has been under construction for some time. The delays which occurred on this job were attributable directly to lack of funds from Canberra. This building is now nearing completion. The moving-in process will start about April next year. One of the biggest projects in the State is nearing completion right in the heart of the electorate of Brisbane.

The site selected for the cultural complex is just across the Victoria Bridge. While it is situated in Brisbane, it is surely for the whole of the State. Any criticism directed at its being located in Brisbane is ridiculous. It

had to be located somewhere, and would anyone suggest that it should be in a far distant centre rather than Brisbane?

I was interested and quite grateful to hear the honourable member for Rockhampton North express his concern for the patients at St. Helen's Hospital. His interest, which was aroused yesterday morning, was preceded by the attention given to this matter by the Minister following representations made by me before breakfast last Monday morning. These matters have been well cared for, but I am grateful to the honourable member for his interest.

The Queensland Art Gallery is housed in temporary premises. They are air-conditioned and, in this way, are an improvement on the old premises at the Queensland Museum. The present site is an incentive to us to ensure that work on the cultural complex proceeds as quickly as possible. In the meantime, I urge the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities to consider restoring the itinerant rail art gallery which operated very successfully in Queensland about 20 years ago. At the time I lived in Townsville and I remember the pleasure that the people of Townsville and other cities derived from the visit of the travelling art gallery. At this time, when so many of the treasures of the Queensland Art Gallery are stored away, unable to be exhibited, I recommend to the Minister that he take steps to reintroduce this amenity so that it may be enjoyed by all the people in Queensland.

Two years ago the estimated cost of the cultural centre at South Brisbane was over \$45,000,000. Only last week \$1,200,000 was allocated for its commencement, and work has already begun. I trust that money will become available from time to time so that the job can be completed as soon as possible. When it is finished we will have right in the heart of Brisbane a complex second to none.

Transport in Brisbane is in a pitiful state.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. LOWES: I know that the honourable member for Archerfield, like most citizens of Brisbane, has a legitimate gripe about transport, which merely exists or is completely lacking. For that reason electrification is essential. The proposed link from Darra to Ferny Grove is well under way. Among the ancillary works associated with electrification of the south-east corner is the cross-river bridge being built at a cost of about \$13,000,000. I point out that this structure, too, is in the electorate of Brisbane.

The quadruplication of the rail track has caused some concern in Brunswick Street. I thank the Minister for Transport for the consideration he has shown. As soon as he was advised that small businesses would be upset and people would be inconvenienced, he made it his personal business to make inquiries into the problems. His first step was to increase the 40-hour week contract to an 80-hour week contract to facilitate the work that was under way. Because of

this, the cost of the project increased from \$610,000 to \$726,000 and, on present indications, that is only a commencing point.

Further costs will undoubtedly be incurred. Whenever a need is found to eliminate nuisance such as noise (by the use of baffle walls or working extra late hours), the Minister and officers of his department involved in this particular project are amenable to the wants of the people and give such matters their attention. The working period will be reduced from 38 to 22 weeks and the work is being done at times which are suitable not so much to the contractor as to the people in that area.

When it comes to the development of the Brisbane area, however, I am concerned about the antics at the Brisbane City Hall. Some years ago, an inquiry was held into the management of the City Hall and Mr. Arnold Bennett, Q.C., itemised many instances in his report of the council's flouting the law. Unfortunately, despite those findings and despite the recommendations of the Bennett report, the tactics are still the same. We are still experiencing Tammany Hall tactics.

I had an instance brought to me recently of a planner who had planned a multi-unit development at Spring Hill. It is an area which is ideally suited to mixed dormitory and commercial uses. But it cannot be developed, simply because the Brisbane City Council is not applying itself properly to its task. It has no policy, or if it has a policy, it is one of obstruction. In the instance as related to me, clearly an illegal and improper demand was made for an amount in excess of \$20,000, with no particular consideration or particular purpose being nominated. Furthermore, although there was no particular or nominated purpose, the amount was variable and the variation was in accordance with the inverse proportion and degree of opposition raised by the proposed developer.

While this behaviour in the City Hall continues, people will not be prepared to develop their sites. As a result of the delays they are experiencing, they are incurring greater costs, which can only be passed on to the ultimate purchaser. For these reasons I believe that the progress of this city is being hindered, as it has been in the past, by a Brisbane City Council under the domination of Labor. We have a similar problem with transport.

When I last spoke in the Address-in-Reply debate I dealt with the abolition of estate duties because it is and has been part of the philosophy of the Liberal Party for many years. It is the platform of the Liberal Party to moderate the imposition of estate duty. Last year, in this debate, I made certain recommendations which might have been followed. Subsequently I made a submission to the Liberal Party on the same issue. My first recommendation was that estate duties of all kind on the transfer of assets between spouses be abolished. I

was pleased to find that on 25 September last year our Government introduced legislation to abolish all duty on the transfer of properties between spouses.

A further recommendation I made was that gift duty as such be abolished, but that the transfer of assets between persons other than spouses be liable to duty at the rate of conveyancing duty on the value of such assets, irrespective of whether the transfer was wholly or partly by way of gift. I believe that that is a reasonable policy to be followed and is one that I recommend to the Treasurer when he is considering the framing of his Budget.

I am glad of this opportunity to reaffirm the allegiance of the people of Brisbane. I can assure this House and all of the people of Queensland that the people of Brisbane look forward to Her Majesty's visit next March. They will be given the opportunity then to display their loyalty. Furthermore, the people of Brisbane look forward to displaying their loyalty on 2 June next year when Her Majesty celebrates the 25th anniversary of her Coronation. Her Jubilee is something to which the people of Brisbane look forward.

I am pleased to support the motion.

Mr. GOLEBY (Redlands) (7.36 p.m.): It gives me very much pleasure on behalf of the citizens of Redlands to reaffirm and convey their allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen. We are very fortunate to live in a country that has a democratic system of government, with the Queen as monarch. I am proud to be able to honour her in this way.

To the two new members in the House—the honourable members for Clayfield and Port Curtis—I give my congratulations and I wish them a very memorable stay here. I also pay a tribute to Sir Gordon Chalk, who served the State for almost 30 years as the member for Lockyer, first as a member of the Opposition and then, after the Nicklin Government came to office in 1957, for 19 years in the Ministry. He will be remembered particularly for the contribution that he made to the State in the Treasury portfolio. I convey my congratulations, too, to the new Minister, the honourable member for Ashgrove, on his appointment.

The Governor made particular reference in his Opening Speech to the development of Queensland. It is a State of unlimited potential and one in which a great deal of work remains to be done. I must congratulate the honourable member for Bundaberg on the remarks he made a little earlier about the development of this State, getting on with the job and making Queensland a place that our children and their children will be able to retain for themselves. It so happens that the honourable member for Bundaberg often speaks immediately before or after me, and quite often we interject on one another. This, however, is the first occasion on which I have heard the honourable member for Bundaberg really speak from his heart. He

gave the House a speech which I am sure every member really appreciated. It showed quite clearly how over the years he had been misled by his party and by their philosophy on work and its value. Only recently he toured overseas and saw for himself the problems and conditions faced by the people living in Korea, Indonesia and, to a lesser extent, Japan. He now realises, as Government members have realised for a long time, that if we do not do something about getting on with the job and developing this State, someone else will do it for us.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Who?

Mr. GOLEBY: The honourable member for Bundaberg told us—the Communists. The honourable member for Archerfield will not recognise that. He walks side by side and hand in hand with them.

Getting on with the development of a State in which there is a limited population requires devotion from its work-force. The 60-minute hour has to return, and workers and management alike must put every effort into the 8-hour day and make sure that it is worked for a full day's pay. Overseas capital is waiting to come here, but it is being held back because of the indecision of trade unions and the great grabs for wage increases irrespective of conditions. Until these claims are modified and unions realise there is a job to be done in this State, and until workers cease being dictated to by the Communists who unfortunately control many major unions and themselves take control of their affairs, the overseas capital that is so badly needed to continue the development of this country, particularly in the mining industries, will not be attracted here.

Mr. Hartwig: They wouldn't tolerate it in Communist countries.

Mr. GOLEBY: No, and I hope we do not tolerate it here much longer. But it is up to the workers, and I look forward to the day when the Federal Government introduces secret ballots for trade union elections so that every worker will have his say in deciding the future of his union.

In his speech the Governor spoke of the Moreton Regional Growth Study, which has just been completed, and the report made to the Government. This study dealt solely with development in the south-east corner of our State. It predicts that there will be a population growth to 1,600,000 by the year 2000. In contrast with this, the Coastal Management Study predicted a population expansion in the south-east corner to almost 3,000,000 by the year 2000. I ask all honourable members to look carefully at these studies, because obviously one of them must be wrong. I venture to say that the information and data collected under the Moreton Regional Growth Study has many shortfalls.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! There is far too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Mr. GOLEBY: I will point out some of them. In the Redlands electorate, which I represent, and in the Redland Shire in particular, this management study this year projected a population of 32,000 persons by the year 2000. The population of the area at the present time is 28,000! After many deputations and an exploration of the facts, their prediction reluctantly rose to 60,000; but five new houses are being constructed in the shire each day. The population has doubled every seven years since 1959, and the coastal management prediction is that by the year 2000 the population will have risen to in excess of 100,000. The figure is very important when we consider the various facilities that are needed in such an area.

The proposal by the Moreton Regional Growth Study was purely and simply to develop the areas within Brisbane, using the existing infrastructures, whether they were suitable for further development or not. I refer to the many low-lying and swampy areas, such as the Serpentine area on the north side, which the study proposes be used for residential development in the very near future. I ask the House: why would people elect to live in an area such as that when almost as close to the city they have good high and dry land in the coastal environs of the Redlands area, where residential development is moving ahead rapidly? As the years go by, that development must increase and the 100,000 figure projected by the Coastal Management Study will surely be reached. To provide for a population such as this—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I have made two appeals to honourable members to curtail their audible conversation. I ask them once again. If they do not respond to my request, I might have to take disciplinary action.

Mr. GOLEBY: To provide the necessary transportation and traffic flow for a population of 100,000, certain things must be taken into consideration. Firstly, I ask that consideration be given to the construction of the eastern corridor. It is quite obvious that under the Moreton Regional Growth Study the growth patterns have been aligned along the existing corridors to the north coast and to the south coast; little attention has been paid to those areas in between. I refer to the areas adjacent to Wynnum and Redlands and down to the Logan River.

In his Opening Speech the Governor also mentioned the Wivenhoe Dam, which is to be completed by about 1980. Reference had already been made to this dam tonight by the honourable member for Bundaberg, although an appreciation of the worth of this dam has very little relevance to the areas around Bundaberg. However, it is of great importance to the south-east corner. It will provide water for a very large area and will considerably enlarge the existing supplies for the city of Brisbane and its

environs. However, I sincerely hope that the shires surrounding Brisbane will not be asked to pay for its construction costs if they are not to draw water from it. The Redland Shire in particular has a large water supply scheme, with the ponded area known locally as the Leslie Harrison Dam which has been built to supply a population well in excess of 100,000. This particular region will not require water from Wivenhoe Dam, and I certainly hope that neither it nor others like it will be asked to contribute to the expenditure required for its construction.

A Government Member: Will they be drawing water from it?

Mr. GOLEBY: No; they will not be drawing water from it.

A Government Member: They won't pay.

Mr. GOLEBY: That is what we are told at present; but quite often things alter as time goes on, and we are all brought in under a blanket cover. I certainly hope that will not be so in this case.

The tourist industry is of tremendous value to the State. It is one of the major industries in my area and, of course, Queensland is known throughout Australia as the tourist State of the Commonwealth. The cost of tourism is one of the items that concerns me greatly today. Once it was possible to travel throughout this State and enjoy the comforts that one expects as a tourist. However, recently cost structures have made accommodation so expensive that it has been priced out of the range of the ordinary citizen. Unless something is done in this field, instead of being the tourist capital of Australia Queensland will become the tent capital because many so-called tourists can no longer afford to stay at the accommodation houses along the coastline and are reverting to the canvas cities in camping areas dotted around the State.

In my own electorate, Stradbroke Island, which is so close to Brisbane, calls for further development as a tourist centre. I have said before in the House—and I repeat it now—that it has some of the finest beaches to be found anywhere. They are unsurpassed in Australia—20-mile long, continuous sandy beaches, within 30 miles of the city—and the only problems are access and development.

I am very grateful for the Government's assistance in the short time that I have been here. So far it has seen fit to begin construction of a \$2,500,000 boat harbour at Dunwich and to replace the Dunwich jetty, and it has spent over \$700,000 on an access road to the tourist centre of Point Lookout, which has some of the most beautiful scenery one could see anywhere. It has gorges and sandy beaches, and at this time of the year the wild flowers are something to behold. If the State Government Tourist Bureau promoted this area, I am sure that it would grow rapidly.

I suggest to the Government that it find ways and means of providing road access by

way of a bridge to Stradbroke Island. I know that developers are waiting to begin work on a large area of Stradbroke Island. All that is required, as I see it, is the grant of a large tract of land in return for a bridge crossing the bay at the lower end of the Redland Shire near the Logan River, across to Russell Island and Canaipa Passage. This could be done readily and would release to the large population of Brisbane one of the finest tourist areas in Australia.

Mr. Simpson: How long would it be?

Mr. GOLEBY: Less than a mile over the waterways; the remainder would be over land.

Mr. Akers: Shorter than the Hornibrook Highway?

Mr. GOLEBY: That is correct.

Education has been much to the fore recently, and I make no apology for saying that I fully support the stand taken by the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities and the Government over drug issues involving teachers. In saying that, I am sure that I speak not only for the majority of the people of the Redlands electorate but also for the majority of the members of the teaching profession in Queensland.

Teaching is an honoured profession, and we owe much to the teachers of this State. I am sure that virtually every one of them would appeal to us as members of this Assembly not to relent but to maintain the profession as a high and honoured one that the citizens of this State can look up to.

Since becoming a member of this Assembly, I have made certain representations to the Minister for Education to advance education in the Redlands electorate. I am pleased to say that one new primary school and a new opportunity school have been opened, and that a new primary school and a new high school are under construction. In addition, two new pre-schools are under construction, and three new pre-schools have recently been opened. The population growth in this area, particularly in the northern end of the Albert Shire, is so great that it has been necessary to purchase four additional sites for future schools. Those schools will be needed in the very near future. A new high school is urgently needed in the Capalaba region in the Redland Shire. At the present time the electorate has only one high school operating. It is necessary that a high school be opened in the Capalaba area by 1978. At present 1,450 students attend the Cleveland State School. Unless a new school is built by 1978 the accommodation problems at Cleveland will be insurmountable.

I should like to think that land could be purchased for educational needs in many areas prior to development taking place. I have had the regional director for Brisbane South around the electorate on two occasions securing land. It is quite obvious to me that if funds can be made available for the purchase of land before rezoning takes place, much more suitable sites can be selected at

a much more reasonable price. Before rezoning, \$40,000 to \$100,000 is required to purchase a site suitable for a high school, but once rezoning takes place in an area the same site could not be purchased for less than \$1,000,000.

For transport into my area we rely entirely on bus services to and from Brisbane and barge services to and from the islands. I appeal to the Minister for Transport to keep high on his list of priorities the need for the extension of an electrified line from Lota to Cleveland. The land where the previous railway line ran was retained, and it would be very easy to re-lay a line along the existing route. Fortunately the route goes through the main populated areas along the coastline.

Earlier I mentioned the eastern corridor. Little has been heard about the eastern corridor in recent years, but to service that area by road adequately a freeway system or corridor system is required along what is presently known as Old Cleveland Road.

I mentioned bus services. I very much appreciate the concessions given in the last Budget to pensioner passengers on local bus services. Those concessions have been appreciated by the pensioners themselves. However, several anomalies still exist. In the Albert Shire, on the western side of my electorate, the pensioners using the three bus services from the Gold Coast—I refer particularly to Skennar's service and the Greyhound—cannot receive the pensioner concession as they are using what are termed through bus services. If they are fortunate enough to be able to use the very limited local bus service the pensioners' concession applies. I appeal to the Minister for Transport to have this anomaly rectified so that pensioners living in that area can use the public transport that runs through their area. In this way they could be all placed on an equal footing and receive the various concessions.

Mr. Ahern: In my area they get nothing in that regard.

Mr. GOLEBY: Perhaps the honourable member had better join me in my approach to the Minister. I have already written to him. Perhaps we should approach him together. It is an anomaly.

War widows receive no concessions in the terms in which I have been speaking. They are not subject to a means test and therefore are not eligible to receive the concession. This is another matter which should be looked into.

Reference has been made to the effect of pay-roll tax on small businesses. Pay-roll tax, coupled with higher workers' compensation charges, is crippling small businesses throughout the State. I appeal to the Treasurer to alleviate the burden of pay-roll tax and workers' compensation in his forthcoming Budget. The previous Budget provided for a high exemption level, but once the exemption figure is exceeded the calculations are based on the total amount, so that the small businessman suffers a great

deal of hardship. With the present high wages and the prospect of even higher wages in the future, the exemption figure provided last year is now of little effect.

The time has arrived for employees to contribute to their employers' workers' compensation funds. There are a great many genuine workers who do not flout the law, but I am quite sure that all honourable members are aware of instances of the payment of workers' compensation to employees who are not legally entitled to it. Some workers tend to play upon workers' compensation. Unless that situation can be rectified, workers' compensation charges will rise so much that employers will no longer be able to afford to meet them and the workers will be forced to contribute to the fund.

I turn now to local authorities and in doing so would urge again the need for preferential voting in local authority elections. Preferential voting is firmly established at both Federal and State level as well as in the Brisbane City Council elections. Now that political parties have entered the local government arena, there is a need for preferential voting in local authority elections. Quite often, with a multiplicity of candidates, the successful candidate is elected with as little as 30 per cent of the votes. Surely that highlights the need for the introduction of preferential voting.

I congratulate the Minister for Fisheries on the work that he has done to help the fishing industry. Until the present time Fisheries has been the Cinderella department. For years it has been an unwanted foster child, pushed around from department to department. At first it was under the control of the Department of Harbours and Marine; later it was embodied within the Department of Primary Industries and then it went back under the control of the Department of Harbours and Marine. This is the first occasion on which a Minister for Fisheries has been appointed. Although much work has been done, a good deal remains to be done.

My electorate is vitally concerned with fisheries. Fishing is carried out along its entire coastline, as are crabbing and oystering. The Cleveland fish depot is the largest collection point of sand crabs on the Queensland coast.

The fishing industry has tremendous potential, but unfortunately a minority of fishermen, who could aptly be termed pirates, are flouting the law. I should like to think that the new Bill that is to be introduced would provide for much stiffer penalties on those who violate the law, for example, by trawling in closed waters and within habitat areas. I suggest that persons who do that should have their licences cancelled. That would prevent them from participating in the fishing industry again. After all, a motorist who is convicted of certain indictable offences or of serious traffic breaches has his licence suspended, so I cannot see any reason why a fisherman who knowingly breaks the law should not have his licence revoked.

A good deal of research is needed into the fishing industry. Many problems still exist. Little is known of the various fish habitats along our coastline. At Cleveland a new C.S.I.R.O. headquarters has been established, with expenditure to date totalling \$1,500,000. I understand that its completion in the very near future will entail a total expenditure of more than \$3,000,000. I understand that the function of that laboratory is the study of the breeding habits of fish, and prawns in particular.

I would like the Government to influence the C.S.I.R.O. to spread its wings and study the kerosene taint in mullet. Much has been said about this problem but very little has been done. The area in which fish seem to be affected by this taint extends from the Brisbane River to Caloundra. Fishing for mullet has virtually ceased in this area. Any catch with one tainted fish is condemned, making it a high-risk industry in this area. I should like the fishermen to be encouraged to catch these fish because when they join up with the shoals moving on the outside of Stradbroke, Moreton and Bribie Islands, the whole of the shoals can be contaminated. If fishermen were encouraged to catch these fish for use in the pet-food industry, one of the problems confronting fishermen in Moreton Bay would be alleviated.

Many people on Stradbroke Island are of Aboriginal descent. They are very fine citizens who are fully integrated in the local community. They play a very active part in local organisations and take a keen interest in their town. They are engaged in the fishing, oyster and mineral sands industries. I should like provision to be made for their adequate housing. The houses that have been constructed for them are highly appreciated but a number of families cannot get suitable accommodation.

During this debate many speakers have dealt with our primary industries. I shall not spend time on the beef industry because other honourable in this Chamber who are more qualified to do so have dealt with it at length. However, I shall deal with problems facing the horticultural industry in my electorate, particularly as they relate to the labour situation. We hear a great deal about unemployment and the difficulties experienced in seeking work. It is extremely difficult to obtain suitable labour in the horticultural industry. Some employers have started men who, after two hours' work or less, have walked off saying, "This is no good to us; we prefer to do nothing." The strawberry industry, which was one of the major industries in my area, has suffered considerably. This was one of the largest strawberry-growing areas in Australia, but it has slipped back in recent years because of the difficulty of securing suitable labour. Difficulty is being experienced again this season in obtaining suitable labour to harvest the crop, which is at its peak. The same difficulties are experienced in the Gympie area. In this area

500 males are registered for employment but recent advertisements in the local Press did not produce any replies.

Mr. Houston: What sort of jobs are these?

Mr. GOLEBY: Labouring jobs.

Mr. Houston: What are the chaps who are out of work?

Mr. GOLEBY: Labourers.

We hear much talk about dole bludgers but I prefer to refer to them as work dodgers. It seems that they are no longer prepared to do an honest day's work. As I said earlier, if Queensland is to develop we must get back to working a 60-minute hour for a full eight hours—to give a just day's wages for a just day's work.

Mr. Houston interjected.

Mr. GOLEBY: Many of these people were engaged in the industries I referred to and are experienced, but they prefer the dole as an easy way out.

We have a great State with unlimited potential if only we are prepared to work. I urge honourable members to encourage the development of our State and to give every incentive to the investment of overseas capital, at the same time making sure that our mineral resources are developed for the benefit of Queenslanders. We must not wait until our resources are taken over by people from outside.

Mr. AKERS (Pine Rivers) (8.5 p.m.): At the outset I should like to express my sympathy to the honourable member for Mulgrave in the sad loss of his wife. I am sure I speak on behalf of every member of the House. I also express my sympathy to the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport (Hon. J. D. Herbert), who, I understand, has lost his father.

Over the past few months we have seen some fairly dramatic changes in the Liberal Party leadership in this House. The former leader (Sir Gordon Chalk) has resigned. I am sure that he will be missed in this House by those honourable members who have been here much longer than I. I shall certainly miss him and I have been here only 18 months.

I should like to comment on the other changes. Firstly, the new leader of the Liberal Party in this Parliament (Hon. W. E. Knox) has already shown tremendous initiative and leadership. I believe that he will weld the Liberal Party into a very effective force in Queensland politics. He will be assisted very ably by his deputy (Hon. F. A. Campbell), who is an old friend of mine. His choice of the honourable member for Ashgrove as a new Minister was, I think, an excellent one. The Hon. J. W. Greenwood has not been here any longer than I have. I know how he must have felt last week when he stood up in front of the Local Government Association Conference in Cairns. I wonder how I would

have handled it. He had a brand new portfolio, one that he has not had great experience in, and in facing such an experienced group of hard-headed politicians as we find in the leadership of local government, I can assure you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that he handled himself very well.

As one of the final speakers in this debate, I shall reiterate the motion which is the subject of this debate. The honourable member for Clayfield (Mr. Ivan Brown) moved—

“That the following Address be presented to the Governor in reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency in opening this, the third session of the Forty-first Parliament of Queensland—”

and so on.

The Address is one of allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and contains an assurance to His Excellency that this Parliament will take notice of and will try to deal excellently with the proposals put forward by him in his Opening Speech.

I congratulate the honourable member for Clayfield on his election to this House. I have known him for some years and have great respect for him. I am very pleased to see that he has stayed in the Chamber for most, if not all, of the debate on his motion. I think that indicates the dedication that the people of Queensland and especially the people of Clayfield can expect from this new representative.

I have said that I support the motion. I say also that all of my 27,171 constituents join with me in that support. Unlike the honourable member for Archerfield, on behalf of those 27,171 voters and their 30,000-odd dependants I reaffirm our allegiance to the Queen.

The figure of 27,171 was the enrolment of Pine Rivers electorate on Monday of this week. I have looked at what has happened in other electorates and have prepared a table showing the enrolments of several others. I seek leave to incorporate that table in “Hansard”.

(Leave granted.)

“ ELECTORATE ENROLMENTS

	Actual				Projected	
	May 1972	December 1974	December 1975	September 1976	December 1977	December 1980
Pine Rivers	16,758	24,539	25,929	27,171	29,000	33,500
Balonne	6,870	7,152	6,910	6,895	7,000	7,000
Gregory	6,723	7,087	6,866	6,821	6,900	7,000
Cook	7,375	8,275	8,363	8,425	8,600	8,700
Archerfield	12,522	14,612	14,241	14,512	14,600	14,700
Bulimba	12,534	13,763	13,288	13,318	13,400	13,500
Bundaberg	11,034	11,753	11,908	11,945	12,200	12,350
Sandgate	12,875	14,110	14,128	14,314	14,400	14,500

I draw attention to the September 1976 enrolments and in particular the projected enrolments for December 1977 and December 1980, which are quite frightening.

Mr. Houston: Why don't you have a redistribution?

Mr. AKERS: The figures show that if there is no redistribution the Pine Rivers electorate will have an enrolment of 29,000 before the election is due next December, and 33,500 before the following election. That means that when I win the next election I will be looking after the interests of 33,500 voters, or approximately 60,000 people.

The first time I have heard the Labor Party call for redistribution was just now. I wondered why they had not made such a call before until I heard the comments of their leader the other day that he is determined to eliminate the Liberal Party by manipulating votes. He said that he will try to get his party to give their preferences in three-cornered contests to the National Party. He believes that in that way he will get rid of the Liberal Party and he can then take on the National Party.

The table shows that the Pine Rivers enrolment is 5,000 greater than the combined enrolments of Balonne, Gregory and Cook. That is bad enough but those are very large areas and some allowance has to be made for that reason. The Pine Rivers total is almost equal to the combined totals of Bulimba and Sandgate and it is more than twice the aggregate of Archerfield and Bundaberg.

The A.L.P. therefore has two reasons for not being interested in a redistribution. The over-populated seats are mostly held by Liberals and the A.L.P. seats are safe seats with small populations. A.L.P. members are not interested in a redistribution and any denial of that statement is a sham. I am not a supporter of exactly equal numbers in electorates and this I have shown in votes within my own council. Allowance must be made for area, but the present position is completely biased against the electors of Pine Rivers. They have only half the voting power of those in Archerfield, Bulimba, Bundaberg and Sandgate and one-third the power of those in Cook, Gregory and Balonne. Compared with the latter electorate, 5,000 might just as well not have voted. I believe

that there must be a redistribution, even if only a minor one round Brisbane, as soon as possible.

In the debate on the Financial Statement last year I referred to the effects of the Hayden A.L.P. Budget on the building and construction industry. I shall quote some of what I said then. It must be remembered that I spoke on 21 October last year before the A.L.P. Government was sacked. I said—

“Under the Budget, the Federal Government deferred building projects worth \$58,000,000. That was the equivalent of deferring the employment of 3,000 men in the building industry, in design offices and on construction sites, for one full year throughout Australia. A survey of consulting engineers in September, three weeks after the Budget was brought down, showed that projects worth \$102,000,000 had been cancelled in Queensland.”

I went on to say—

“These horrific figures indicate that in about mid-1976—that is about when the effects will be felt—15,000 to 20,000 jobs for building workers and others in associated fields just will not exist.”

That prediction has been borne out. It has been borne out by a report prepared recently by the Building and Construction Industry Development Council of Queensland. That report shows that the building industry, which employed 134,000 people late last year, has suffered a job loss of 25 per cent. that is, 30,000 jobs. So I underestimated badly last year when I said there would be a loss of 15,000 to 20,000 jobs. This has occurred entirely as a result of the Hayden A.L.P. Budget. There are 45,000 people unemployed in Queensland, 30,000 of those being from the building industry. If those 30,000 jobs still existed, the employment situation in Queensland would have been greatly different.

I do not make these statements on the construction industry as a layman without substantiation, as are some of the comments we hear from the A.L.P., but as a practising architect. I know how badly architects are feeling the effects of the A.L.P. Government's policies. The figures I have quoted are from a report which has been prepared in an unemotional and well-documented and researched manner by the Building and Construction Industry Development Council of Queensland. That council is not made up of a bunch of people who do not know what they are talking about. It consists of representatives of the following organisations:—

The Association of Consulting Engineers of Australia;

The Association of Consulting Surveyors, Queensland;

The Australian Federation of Construction Contractors;

The Building Industry Sub-contractors Organisation of Queensland;

The Housing Industry Association Queensland Division;

The Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors;

The Royal Australian Institute of Architects;

The Practising Architects Group;

The Queensland Confederation of Industry Limited;

The Queensland Master Builders Association;

The Queensland Timber Board;

The Urban Development Institute of Australia,

and a member who represents the hardware and building suppliers. That is a full range of representation from the building and construction industry of Queensland and therefore that report should receive the keen attention of both the State and Federal Governments. We hear a cry from the A.L.P. supporters that the present unemployment cannot be attributed to the former A.L.P. Government, because of the time that has elapsed since its defeat, but the figures and predictions which I quoted in October last year when there was a Federal A.L.P. Government put the lie to that assertion.

Mr. Houston: What do you do—read the stars and get your predictions, or what?

Mr. AKERS: I assure the honourable member that the figures I quoted in October were based on surveys taken within the building and construction industry at that time. The present unemployment in the building and construction industry is directly attributable to the Whitlam-Hayden A.L.P. policies. A.L.P. supporters cannot do better than remember the old statement, “The buck stops here.”

The building and construction industry has a very long lead time, and my predictions of last year have been borne out. This is what the A.L.P. supporters blissfully ignored. A full appreciation of lead time is essential because lead time has a great effect over a long, long time. It is the thing that makes the building industry the easiest one to attack with economic policies and the hardest to restore. The first stage of lead time involves the commissioning of primary and secondary consultants through the allied professions of architecture, engineering and quantity surveying, and the preparation of briefs, feasibility studies and reports, preliminary and revised designs with alternative site approval, foundation tests and many other items that must be covered before any work can start on the site and before anyone can get employment on the job. That is the beginning of the lead time of which notice must be taken when we are dealing with the building industry.

The second stage involves the calling of tenders and the establishing of their work by builders and contractors, and sometimes it can be up to 10 months—and quite often

four years—after the first commission by the architect that the painters and other finishing tradesmen are on a building site. These are the people who are finishing off jobs now and who will be out of work very soon.

In 1968 I worked on some of the sketch plans for Block 7 at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. That building is not finished yet. The effect on employment in the building and construction industry is, as I said earlier, a long-term effect, because there is a loss of skilled and experienced workers. That was the point made by the honourable member for Bulimba a short while ago. When jobs do become available, there will not be skilled and experienced labourers to handle them. Those men will have gone to other jobs. I think that is borne out by the fact that there are no pools of skilled unemployed in the employment bureaus. There are no large numbers of skilled people on the books at any of the bureaus, yet there has been a 25 per cent loss in staff in the offices of architects and builders and about 15 per cent in the offices of engineers.

There is another great loss in that organisations that have been built up over many years—in most cases they have developed a high margin of skill by training of personnel in a pre-1974 situation—are broken up. The engagement and training of new staff cannot be accomplished quickly even after work begins, and efficient teams cannot be restored quickly. Therefore, there is a danger that when construction begins again, the standard of workmanship and efficiency will not be high.

What must be done? There must be generation of new work. There must be an examination of the high-interest rates that are preventing the private sector from initiating spending. There must be an investigation of methods of establishing planning policies that prevent the boom-and-bust syndrome that has been characteristic of the post-war building industry. That is the most important point. In addition, there must be reviews of economic controls so that the whole community is made to share the difficulties being experienced by the nation instead of the building industry being the prime and first subject. It is the easy one to hit; it is the hardest to get going again.

Let me deal with the first proposal. In generating new work, it can be seen that there is little initiative from the private sector, and in support of that I refer honourable members to the report that I mentioned earlier. There is little initiative from the private sector at present; so, necessarily, Government action is required. This will not be inflationary. It can be seen from the lead time that I have described that it will not be, and in the short term, because of its over-all effects, it will still be spread over several years.

Immediate action from both the State and Federal Governments is needed to rehabilitate this important industry. I repeat: 134,000

people were employed in the building industry in September last year; now 30,000 of those are not.

I wish to refer to several items affecting my electorate, and the first of these is transport. Because it is a disjointed area, transport in the Pine Rivers electorate is very inadequate. In some areas the Brisbane City Council bus runs to the boundary of the city, and that boundary can be identified only by the fact that there is a bus terminal there. The residential development extends beyond that point, and I refer to the Arana Hills area.

The Brisbane City Council bus terminates at Queens Road. If the service were extended another mile into the Pine Rivers Shire, several thousand additional people would be served. I urge the Minister for Transport to take action as soon as possible to get some sort of co-ordination between the Brisbane City Council and neighbouring shires. The Albany Creek area is another example. The service could be extended another half mile to serve about 1,500 more people.

The matter of police cover is often raised in my electorate. Several approaches have been made to me about having the neighbourhood policeman concept adopted in specific districts, such as Albany Creek, Bald Hills and Bracken Ridge. They would be ideal areas for that innovation because they are separated from other residential areas by a mile or a couple of miles of scrub. Each is surrounded entirely by rural areas and is a defined township. In any one of those three areas it would be very easy to install a neighbourhood constable who would be able to provide the sort of cover we used to get in Petrie many years ago. At that time the local police sergeant knew every person in the district. It was not a matter of his grabbing someone and sticking him in gaol. If he thought a young fellow was doing the wrong thing he gave him a kick up the backside. The kid learnt from that. That is the sort of thing that made the Petrie area livable many years ago. Today the police are shifted in and out. The station closes down overnight and a car comes from your area, Mr. Speaker. It wanders around the district, supposedly covering the area. Those in the car would not know one person in the district. They were not able to prevent someone throwing a brick through my window over Easter.

The neighbourhood policeman idea would not be the best for areas that extend into larger areas. I refer to places like the Ferny Hills-Arana Hills area and the Petrie-Strathpine district. The Petrie area is covered in the day-time by the police station, but only by patrol car at night-time. The Ferny Hills area is barely covered at all. Ferny Hills must have a police station as soon as possible. A tremendous number of young children are growing up in that area. We must provide the police coverage and the sort of guidance that young people need.

The last subject I wish to refer to was raised by the honourable member for Redlands, namely, local government elections. I agree with him wholeheartedly that preferential voting must be introduced into local government elections.

Mr. Doumany: The A.L.P. doesn't want it.

Mr. AKERS: That's for sure. I will give one good reason for that. With "first-past-the-post" voting there is one A.L.P. member on the Pine Rivers Shire Council. He is there solely because the independents had to put someone else on their card, so they picked out the first name they thought of. He happened to be an A.L.P. man, and he is now on the council. But for that there would have been five Liberal councillors for my division and three Liberal councillors for division 1.

In conclusion, I reaffirm my loyalty and that of the electors of Pine Rivers to Her Majesty the Queen. I look forward to the accomplishment of the proposals in His Excellency's Opening Speech.

Mr. KATTER (Flinders) (8.30 p.m.): I avail myself of this opportunity to pledge the loyalty of my electors and myself to the Crown. Having said that, I wish to comment on two articles that have appeared in "The Courier-Mail". I am not one who takes on the Press, but I have to inform the House that on two recent occasions I was very badly misquoted and the newspaper refused to print my side of the story. Let me repeat again what I said in the House the other day. I do this because a lot of people in the State believe there was some substance in the reports that appeared in the Press.

At one stage I was unemployed, and at that time I had a wife and two young children. To be unemployed is not a very pleasant feeling.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: You had a rich father.

Mr. KATTER: My father was not and is not rich; quite the contrary.

To repeat—it is not a pleasant feeling to be unemployed. I would hate to think that anyone who has experienced that sick feeling has had his condition exacerbated by any remarks wrongly attributed to me. My comment was taken entirely out of context. In fact, the remark I made was exactly the same as that made by Mr. Jimmy Carter, the front-runner in the presidential elections in the United States. So if, as suggested, I am a dangerous Right-winger, that brand must also be applied to him. I do not think it can be applied to him; if anything, he could wear the opposite brand.

In the speech during which my remarks were made, for half an hour I pleaded with this Government and the Federal Government not to restrict credit; to keep the supply of credit open, and even to increase it in certain areas of the economy. I asked them to cold-bloodedly create jobs where possible. If that means something like the R.E.D. scheme, I am all for it.

What I am pleading for is that jobs be provided to the 5 per cent of the people in the dole queues at the present time. I do not in any circumstances withdraw from my previous comments to the effect that those people who are capable of working and refuse to accept work should not be permitted to take the hard-earned wages of the fitters, shearers and meatworkers in my area. Do not forget that the highest unemployment figures in Queensland are found in Cairns and on the Gold Coast; bear that in mind. I am concerned that consternation has been caused by irresponsible statements appearing in the Press. As I say, the newspaper would not print my words as they appeared in "Hansard" or in the Press releases that I circulated subsequently.

Mr. Marginson: What paper was that?

Mr. KATTER: It is one that is not read in my area, thank heaven.

I stress that the articles to which I have referred did not do me any damage in my area. The unemployed people there know that the place at which they collect the dole is my office in Charters Towers. We handle something like 200 persons who have been after money, and some of it has been taken out of my pocket as well. I do not like being painted in the wrong colours.

I stress the possibilities arising from the creation of credit, and we get back to the arguments that arose in the 1930s. At that time, instead of listening to Mr. Theodore, who was a humble, simple miner from Chillagoe (people asked, "What the hell would he know about doles and depressions and economics?"), they ignored him and listened to Dr. Niemeyer and took his advice. The result was that one-third of the workforce in Australia was unemployed. If the people had listened to Mr. Theodore, there would have been no depression in Australia.

Mr. Houston: He was a Labor man, wasn't he? Come and stand over here.

Mr. KATTER: The problem was that he was a bit too good for the Labor Party and he was thrown out over that issue. In fact, when Mr. J. T. Lang said the same thing he, too, was thrown out of the Labor Party. There is no way that I would stand with the Opposition and say that.

In talking about the creation of credit we are speaking of picking up the 5 per cent of people who are unemployed at the present moment. Someone may ask, "Where would they be employed?" If all the articles I read in the Press are to be believed we should be releasing credit in the building sector of the economy. Governments can do that. All they have to do is release some statutory reserve deposits, enabling people to borrow more money for housing.

Mr. Houston: The League of Rights!

Mr. KATTER: I do not know about that. I only know that it was preached by two

early leaders of the honourable member's own party, who were kicked out for preaching it.

Mr. Houston interjected.

Mr. KATTER: I do not know about other areas. I can speak only for my own area.

If a mother of a young family falls ill today she cannot get help. In years gone by grandparents lived with their families, but now they live elsewhere. Young wives are in an invidious situation. I feel terribly sorry for our young people.

Mr. Houston: Do you wish to employ the grandmothers?

Mr. KATTER: No. Some of the people on the dole could be employed in these areas.

Many old people in my area cannot maintain their houses. Let some of the unemployed paint them. As these houses would not otherwise be painted, painters would not be put out of work. The unemployed could repair houses, do gardening or clean up the shocking conditions in most of our towns caused by local government being desperately short of money. I am talking about creating jobs. That is what I spoke on for 30 minutes in the House the other day, but I was reported throughout Queensland as demanding that people starve. It is very regrettable and reprehensible that any sub-editor should be responsible for the way in which I was reported.

Mr. Houston: If a person would not paint your house you say that he should starve?

Mr. KATTER: The honourable member cannot over-simplify.

Mr. Houston: What happens if people cannot do the job?

Mr. KATTER: That is a different situation.

Mr. Lamont: You are complaining about people like those at Cedar Bay.

Mr. KATTER: That is exactly what I am complaining about. If a person does not want to work and wants to live on a subsistence farm, that is his business. I have no qualms about that. He should be allowed to live there. But the minute he starts raking money off people who are prepared to work he is in a different arena altogether.

The most pressing problem in my area concerns the plight of three western towns, namely, Hughenden, Richmond and Julia Creek—more particularly the small towns of Richmond and Julia Creek. Regrettably, a large percentage of the shops and buildings in those towns are empty. Many more will be empty within 12 months if nothing is done to help. Theirs is a classic case deserving specific help. I am not being critical of the Queensland Government, which has done marvellous work in both towns. The Toorak Research Station at Julia Creek employs 10 to 20 men. The shallow-dam storage scheme at Richmond provided similar employment, but unfortunately that job is finished.

The sheep industry surrounding the towns has ceased to exist. The problem can be traced to a combination of rising costs of production that sheepmen, as exporters, cannot pass on, and the big floods and recent fires. Because very few sheep are left, shearers no longer live in these towns; no work is available for them. The other industry in these areas is beef. I do not need to go into details about the plight of the beef producers in Queensland. No-one would contest that the two industries in the area are in a critical state. The difficulties are being alleviated by the Queensland Government's spending \$7,000,000 this year on the completion of the Flinders Highway. Although the Labor Party was in office for 20 years it did not lay a single mile of bitumen on this main arterial road, which runs through a major part of North Queensland.

Mr. Houston: It has taken you 20 years.

Mr. KATTER: It has taken us 17 years to do it, but in the 20 years that Labor was in office the only bitumen it laid was one mile through one of the towns. It took us 17 years to build it and it took Labor 20 years not to build it.

Mr. Houston: That is typical logic.

Mr. KATTER: That is exactly the logic we are using.

These two small towns desperately need something done at the present moment. We are trying very hard to have the Landsborough Highway started as soon as possible and work continued on it so that the people who will fall out of employment in Richmond and Julia Creek will be picked up in this particular area.

Let me suggest to the Government that such things as research into solar heating of water and solar air-conditioning be undertaken. Solar air-conditioning is available in the United States at this very minute. A person there can buy a solar-powered air-conditioning unit for his house at a very reasonable price that can be costed out over seven or eight years. I advocate most strongly that research in these two fields could be established most logically in those two small towns.

What we should be aiming at is a viable community size. These two small towns contain only about 1,500 people. They are just too small. But, if we could increase the population beyond 2,000 people, we would have in those towns a doctor, a chemist, an electrician, a painter, a builder and the other things that we are desperately trying to get at the moment.

Let me move on to the field of medical health in country areas. In the past two years one of the two towns had five cases of a person being involved in an accident or becoming suddenly ill. They would be dead if there had not been a doctor in the town at the time. Julia Creek has had no doctor for 13 months out of the last two years and,

by the greatest stroke of luck, the two occasions that a doctor was visiting there were the two occasions when critical accidents occurred. We can thank God that those accidents occurred on those particular days or two people would be dead owing to the inability of the Health Department to secure doctors for these areas.

It has been said to me again and again that we cannot get doctors to go to country areas. Ever since the concept of supply and demand was put forward successfully by Adam Smith there is one sure solution to that problem. Why has the solution never been taken up by the Government? I am speaking here in a general sense because it is really the Australian Universities Commission that is at fault. It is about time that these ivory tower academics, who live in a world where they cannot be got at by the political forces of this country, were made to stand up and defend themselves the same as everybody else concerned with the economy has to. Let them give an account of their stewardship. Let them answer for the situation that they have created in which we cannot get doctors to go to small towns and people in these small towns are dying because of the lack of medical assistance.

In the year 1960, 135 students graduated in the economics and arts courses. The same year 61 doctors graduated. So for every doctor, we produced two economics and arts graduates. In 1974-75, we produced 921 economics and arts graduates—a sixfold increase—but the number of doctors only doubled. We are now producing nine arts graduates for every one medical graduate at the University of Queensland. Thanks to the Federal Labor Government we are paying for the training of these people. Because of the Australian Universities Commission, this situation cannot be changed by this House, the Federal House or by the will of the people of Australia. That is a very sad reflection on the democracy of this country.

Mr. Houston: There weren't enough hospitals to train them in. That's the official answer given by your own Minister for Health here four years ago.

Mr. KATTER: The comments being made by the honourable member for Bulimba are most certainly correct, in part—and I stress, "in part". Let me answer him by saying that we have already announced plans to go ahead with the building of the medical school in Townsville. So we have done our part. It is being done right at this very moment.

Mr. Houston: You haven't, because a medical school is not a training hospital, and that's where your problem is.

Mr. KATTER: The honourable member for Bulimba has foolishly come in again, so I will give him another serve. The situation is that, although we are proceeding with the building of the hospital to take in and train

the people in Townsville, the Australian Universities Commission will not proceed with the building of the university installation in Townsville to train them. So I have answered him again. If he opens his mouth again, he will only get into more trouble.

There are a number of alternatives. In the six, seven or eight years we will have to wait even if something can be done in Townsville in the next two or three years, which would be extremely doubtful under the present situation—

Mr. Houston: You have the representation both State and Federally. What do you expect?

Mr. KATTER: I am attacking the concept of the Australian Universities Commission. I wish the honourable member would listen. If he intends to keep making rude interruptions, he should listen so that he might make intelligent interjections. So far he has succeeded only in making a fool of himself and wasting the time of the House.

One of the top officials in the Health Department in Queensland said this to me—

"Look, for the next six or seven years until the stage is reached where we are producing enough doctors to service country areas, doctors should be required to spend some time in the West. A doctor in our society today enjoys everything that society has to offer. He has an extremely high income. He enjoys a social position above that of other members of the community. He is looked up to and respected and he has a very important and rewarding job. He probably has fewer working hours than most other people. It is my considered opinion that the least a doctor can do is devote one year of his life to the service of the State of Queensland and the people who inhabit it."

Mr. Houston: Who told you that?

Mr. KATTER: Obviously I am not going to divulge his name. The alternative to the provision of such a service from medical practitioners is to consider a concept of paramedics such as exists in many poorer countries. It is a great reflection on our society that we in one of the world's richest countries have to consider paramedics, but that is the situation now.

I stress that the first year of a doctor's training has very little to do with the medical course. According to my informants, who are university lecturers and students, it is an irrelevant year and should be removed from the course. This would make the course shorter, as medical courses are in the rest of the world, and so would produce more doctors in a shorter time.

I pay a great tribute to the new Minister for Health because his achievements in this area have been the first steps taken in the last 10 or 15 years in the field of rural health. I got the doctors in my area to draw up a list of their major complaints. What they wanted first was relief doctors; they did not want to

be on duty seven days a week every week. The Health Department has now introduced a system under which relief doctors provide the relief sought.

Mr. Houston: They have had that for years.

Mr. KATTER: They have not had it for years. If any Labor members had crossed the Great Divide, which they have not, they would know that they had not had relief. That is proof of the fact that the honourable member has never been over the range.

Mr. Houston interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Bulimba had the opportunity to make a speech today.

Mr. Houston: I'm only trying to help.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member does not need any help.

Mr. KATTER: It is embarrassing, Mr. Speaker, because by comparison with the honourable member for Bulimba I look so good. It is unfair to his colleagues.

The second point I wish to make is that doctors and their wives in country areas constantly complain about the heat, dust, dryness and all the other things that we have to put up with in country areas. Most of these people have spent six years in Brisbane. Their wives are for the most part typical Brisbane girls and they are not used to harsh conditions. The obvious answer was to create their own environment in their homes by means of air-conditioning. I congratulate the Minister on air-conditioning hospital residences in Western Queensland. The people in my area owe a great debt of thanks to the Minister and I take great pleasure in thanking him for what he has achieved so far.

All that I can say at this stage is that the battle for country medical services in this State depends on one thing—the establishment of a medical school at Townsville. Without that there is no hope in the immediate future of getting doctors to service western areas.

I conclude by making reference to another great achievement of the Government. I was about to refer to it as the second greatest achievement but I should perhaps call it the third greatest because the building of the Flinders Highway was an achievement to rival even the building of the Brazilian Highway through the jungles of the Amazon. Quite literally that is the case because the men working in that area have had to put up with conditions which have never been encountered by road builders anywhere else in the world. It is a marvellous achievement of sheer physical endurance that that road has been built and it is a marvellous monument to the tenacity of this Government and its feeling for the people who live in country areas.

Secondly, I congratulate this Government on what it has done for health services in

country areas. Thirdly and finally, today the Cabinet of Queensland approved a stabilisation scheme for the beef industry in Queensland. Within a year or two this proposal will not only double the income of beef producers in this State but it will ensure that never again in Australia will beef be priced off the tables of Australian consumers. So it is a great achievement for the consumers of Australia and also a great achievement—

Mr. Houston interjected.

Mr. KATTER: I take that interjection because again the honourable member has made a fool of himself. If he looks at the set-up in the various primary industries throughout Australia, he will see that each of them has what we call a stabilisation scheme. When the export price goes up, a damper is put on it which enables the domestic price to be kept down, and that is why consumers will never have beef priced off their table in Australia again—that is if this scheme is accepted throughout Australia.

Mr. Marginson: Who told you this—the honourable member for Belyando?

Mr. KATTER: We have been working on this for two years. I have been pleading with the Government to adopt this particular scheme, and that is on record in "Hansard". This, of course, is an achievement by the Queensland Government that has not been rivalled by any other State. Once again we are leading Australia in this field. Having said that, I must stress that the other States must agree with what we are doing; if only one State fails to agree to come into this stabilisation scheme it will not work. I just hope and pray, as do all the beef producers and businessmen in my area, that it does work. Let me stress that 500 stockmen are out of work in my area at the present time; that is, 500 jobs once held by men who had worked in the industry all their lives no longer exist.

Mr. Elliott interjected.

Mr. KATTER: I accept what the honourable member for Cunningham has said. It is true that honourable members opposite think that everybody who lives over the Great Dividing Range rides a horse. I have never ridden a horse. I find them very smelly and dangerous and I am terrified by them. Most of the people in the area drive cars. They are employed in service industries. For every person in a country area who works on the land there are 100 people who live and work in towns, and when honourable members opposite say that everyone in the country is a rich grazier they do not realise that they are not even graziers to start with. As for the graziers being rich, all I can say again is that honourable members opposite and their colleagues in Canberra have never been to a station and never seen the conditions under which these people

live, especially at the moment. It is embarrassing for these people to have these things said about them, and that is the only expression I can use.

Mr. Moore: How do you get on riding the camels around your district?

Mr. KATTER: We have only wild camels at the present time. Some of them visited us quite recently.

The creation of a minimum price scheme for the beef industry will bring a doubling of income to people in my area in the next year or year and a half, and this means that once again we will have viability in the small western towns. For example, to the town of Hughenden alone it will mean an extra \$12,000,000 flowing in each year and that means that once again the trade-unionists can get something like a decent wage, something which the stockmen are not enjoying at the moment as there are virtually no jobs at all for them. It means that the livestock hauliers, too, can look forward to some work. They have heroically—that is the only expression I can use—kept their prices down so that they have had only a 60 per cent increase in the past 17 years—and how many sectors of the Australian economy can talk of a figure like that? In my area the hauliers have not increased their charges in the past two years. How anyone could manage that, I do not know; yet they have done it. They did it simply because they had no alternative. They knew that if they did not, the graziers would walk their cattle down. If the price of beef can be increased, it will mean that at long last the people who have been slowly going broke in the service industries will again have some viability. Implementation of the stabilisation scheme is essential for the survival of western areas.

I thank the Government very sincerely for building the Flinders Highway—as I said earlier, an achievement probably unrivalled in the world—and I thank it for the efforts it has made in the field of rural health, despite the disgusting behaviour of the Australian Universities Commission.

Finally, I again thank the Government for being the first State Government in Australia to put forward a stabilisation scheme for the beef industry.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG (Townsville) (8.56 p.m.): I wish first to associate myself with the motion expressing loyalty to the Crown so ably moved by the honourable member for Clayfield and seconded by the honourable member for Mt. Isa. I also congratulate the honourable member for Clayfield and the honourable member for Port Curtis on their election to this Assembly.

In considering the legislation foreshadowed in His Excellency's Opening Speech, I noted that the Government intends abolishing death duties. In 1972, my short speech in the Address-in-Reply debate centred wholly and solely on the hope that the abolition of both

probate and succession duties would become a reality in this State. That is about to come to pass, and I congratulate all honourable members of this Assembly for continuing discussions on the subject till finally the idea has percolated through to those who can repeal and remove from the Statute Book what I regard as an iniquitous Act.

It was a socialist innovation and was considered to be a wealth tax. It was supposed to be levied once every generation to keep people on an even financial keel, and it was also supposed to directly limit the growth of large inherited fortunes. It was said to be less incentive-blocking than direct personal taxes. When one looks at it, Mr. Speaker, one finds that it has quite the opposite effect on the population.

I consider that death duties—both probate and succession duties—are contrary to good economic principles, in that capital is withdrawn from the private sector and becomes part of Government revenue. There was a very good example of a somewhat similar attempt when the Whitlam socialist Government was in office in Canberra. The Commonwealth Government said that it intended to phase out this form of taxation over a period. However, during the Whitlam socialist A.L.P. Government's tenure of the Treasury benches, that appeared to be something of a myth, because in 1974-75 revenue from probate and succession duty increased by \$17,000,000. Labor did not make a very serious attempt to reduce it.

In 1971-72, out of a total income from taxation of \$7,824,000,000, the Commonwealth Government received \$86,000,000 from probate and succession duties. It cost 1.8 per cent to collect it. Not only did the Whitlam Government take it from the people; it also lost money because of the inefficiency of its collection process. In the same year, Queensland obtained nearly 7 per cent of its total revenue from probate and succession duty, so this State had nothing to be proud of in that respect.

In Queensland, probate and succession duties have increased yearly. Let me quote figures from the Queensland Year Book and the Estimates. I shall take round figures.

The receipts were as follows—

Year	\$
1971-72	19,095,000
1972-73	19,488,000
1973-74	20,149,000
1974-75	35,094,000

It must be remembered that probate duties were removed in this State in December 1973. Our Government again has nothing to be proud of.

In the Federal sphere in 1973-1974, out of a total revenue of \$11,396 million the estimated estate duties were \$60,000,000 or 0.59 per cent of the total revenue. In 1975-76 the Federal Government collected \$76,000,000. These figures show what a grave injustice death duties have been. These taxes may

have been an easy way of collecting money but they have been a grave injustice to all concerned.

In Queensland in 1969-70, 4,455 estates out of 9,228 estates fell between the value of \$6,000 and \$50,000. In other words they represented 49 per cent of the total estates. Probate and succession duties on those estates amounted to \$15,161,000, the average tax on an estate being \$14,400. This was an imposition on the small man and small family. Similarly in 1970-71 estates valued between \$6,000 and \$50,000 numbered 4,768 out of a total of 9,596—49 per cent of the total. There was an average estate value of \$15,000. For years this State has slugged and slogged the middle-income and moderate-asset person.

Probate and succession duties have hit all sections of the community, but there is one section that is probably hit worse than most, namely, the rural sector. I consider that a viable primary producing property at the moment is worth \$200,000. Under the present system that would attract estate duty of somewhere about \$63,000. One realises that the Australian economy depends largely upon rural income. Rural income must be considered in all tax levies. The principal fixed asset in the rural industry is land. Land is not easily divisible. It is difficult to divide a 40 perch allotment in an urban area, let alone a large block in a rural area.

In Queensland a considerable number of properties are still held under lease tenure. Much of that land would be doubtfully viable if it were cut up into smaller sections. In other words there must be large holdings for them to be viable. When an estate is wound up, very often the value assessed by probate and succession duty officers does not coincide with the market value, if one is available. Farms in the rural area have a high capital intensity with a low ratio of income to capital investment. They accumulate little liquid assets.

The other problem that rural industry faces is that of the family farm. In most countries, particularly in Australia, the family farm is supposed to be the backbone of rural industry. But in some cases, because of lack of business knowledge and organisation and, in others, poor income, people lose their farms. At the present moment, because of the current poor financial position of the man on the land in the beef industry and the wool industry, and in some small-crop areas, he just does not have the liquid assets to withstand the sudden imposition of a tax. He is different from the small businessman in the commercial world. Small business is not so badly hit until it grows. But small businesses diversify and become limited companies and arrange trusts. This is commonly done in the commercial world because those people are more closely associated with business principles than the man on the land.

In Queensland we have seen the gradual easing of probate duty, or what I would term

the death tax. In 1973 some probate duties were abolished and in 1974 the exemption level in values of estates passing from spouse to spouse was raised from \$20,000 to \$50,000. That was the first concrete attempt to ease the burden of death duties. Although the other States criticised Queensland for taking that step, they followed suit, but they were by no means as generous as Queensland.

The Queensland Government also eased the joint account legislation. It was an iniquitous measure, which provided that on the death of a husband the joint bank account with his wife was frozen. This meant that the wife had no money available to her until probate was issued. I have seen widows left utterly penniless even though they had joint accounts with their husbands. Because they could not prove to the commissioner that the money in the accounts was theirs—that they had saved it out of their housekeeping money—they had no access to those accounts. I had to arrange for two widows to be paid the pension to enable them to exist. I am very pleased to see the end of that legislation. I hope it will never come back onto our Statute Book.

Succession duties should be totally abolished. Some other States are merely playing with legislation to abolish them and have not been as bold as our Premier and Treasurer. Although, according to the Press, there was a difference of opinion between the Premier and former Treasurer, the battle has been won. Other States, as I say, are playing with the legislation. Succession duties have failed to prevent the accumulation of great wealth. It can be accumulated by way of various tax-evasion schemes, which are well known to people with huge financial resources.

Succession duty is a tax on thrift. A man who works hard, pays taxes and saves his money has his money taken from him by way of death duties when he dies. The imposition of this duty inflicts a psychological trauma on the family that he leaves behind. It brings to the surface a feeling of revulsion at the State system. It makes people improvident and spendthrift, and it is one of the causes of inflation. It makes the States more important than the individual, which to us as Liberals is a most revolting thought. The State is never greater than the individual. The tax also diminishes economic drive and incentive. It produces an attitude of, "Why worry about the kids? Jimmy Government is going to look after them. We don't have to save; let us spend it." Furthermore, it paves the way to socialism. It allows everyone to say, "Don't work hard, don't save; we'll be looked after by the Government. The Welfare State will look after us."

Again I say that death taxes are grossly unfair on the rural sector. They hit that sector more than any other. An interesting point about the rural sector is that, although it represents only 5 per cent of the population of Australia, it pays 30 per cent of death taxes. Those figures are taken from the 1971-72 taxation statistics.

Although the Government is very capable in taking money from the people, it is not very efficient in its administration. In Queensland, for example, the collection of death duties entailed the employment of 103 public servants and long delays of up to six months or one year in the finalisation of estates. The blame for this lies at the feet of the legal advisers and the public servants. In 1973-74 the collection of the tax cost a total of \$886,000. Lots of people found that administration costs amounted to as much as 2 per cent of the value of their estates. Because of this delay the value of certain estates, especially those involving large quantities of shares, particularly in mining companies, altered with devastating results. At the date of death an estate containing, say, Poseidon shares would be worth \$100,000 and three weeks or three months later the shares could be worth nothing. The result was considerable hardship and anguish. All Government members must be pleased that this tax is to be abolished.

Some people may ask how we are to make up the loss in revenue. We should get more mineral royalties, vary the land tax scale and increase taxes on certain entertainment and luxury goods. Because Queensland has led the race to get rid of probate and succession duties, I consider it will get a considerable capital inflow with which will come certain works. In the end we will be much more prosperous thanks to this broadened outlook.

In 1973 the Senate was extremely worried about death taxes and a Senate standing committee was set up to investigate them. I shall refer to part of the dissenting report by Senators Lawrie, Cotton and Guilfoyle. They recommended that the Government should vacate the field of death taxation in the A.C.T. and the A.N.T. and that the States should examine the possibility of gradually reducing their death taxes with a view to eventual abolition. I am so pleased to see that that has happened and I hope that this State continues to approach all forms of taxation in this enlightened manner.

Mr. MOORE (Windsor) (9.12 p.m.): I associate myself with the message of loyalty to the Crown so ably moved by the honourable member for Clayfield (Mr. Brown). He will make his mark in Parliament. He has already indicated by his contributions in this House and in the party room that he is a man with a mind of his own and some guts. He is certainly not a yes-man. He will be an asset in this House. I am pleased to see him here. If I can support him in any way I assure him that I shall do so. I also congratulate the seconder of the motion, the honourable member for Mt. Isa, who has shown himself to be a member of some worth. He has been here for some time, and I am sure that he will have no trouble in holding his seat in the next State election.

Our Governor has been doing a worthwhile job since his appointment. He and Lady Hannah have travelled throughout the State. Both of them have proved to be

approachable and have adopted the State as their own. In the minds of some people the Governor committed a slight breach of protocol by stating his own opinion. Because I believe that he should be allowed to hold an opinion, I thank him for expressing it as he did. I do not believe that he committed any breach.

The A.L.P. policy is to do away with Governors. In the Federal sphere they were attempting to create a Viceroy. The aim of the Queensland A.L.P. is to turn Government House into an old men's home, which is rather stupid. I am amused because, on occasions, members of the A.L.P. will lick the boots of the Governor and his good lady. But when they come here, like Jacob, they wear a coat of a different colour. I hold them in contempt because they will not stand up to be counted. Opposition members must have known I was going to make these remarks because, with the exception of the honourable member for Sandgate, they have run out of the Chamber.

The attitude of the former Labor Government towards Royalty is truly remarkable. In an endeavour to obtain five pennyworth of political capital, it invited the Queen to open Parliament. What contempt! This was done despite Labor's stated policy to do away with the positions of Governor and Governor-General and to appoint a Viceroy, so doing away with the responsibility of the Queen towards this nation. That would have been the first step of the Labor Party had it remained in office. But it was axed in time. Its idea was to appoint a Viceroy and then make Australia a republic.

Labor attempted to make many marked changes to the Constitution. There was to be a Constitutional Convention having as its sole purpose the turning of Australia into a republic. But the people have a very short memory. They have forgotten what Labor did and had in mind. Of course, they knew at the time, because they threw Labor out of office in no uncertain manner. But now the odd person is saying that Fraser has not produced the goods. True he has not, but if he were prepared to let the printing presses run and spend money as the Labor Federal Government did, recovery would be much slower. Inflation would not be cured if the fiduciary issue had remained in circulation. The \$5,000 million deficit can be recovered only by budgeting for a surplus, by extra taxation but at the moment that is not being done. The economy just would not stand it. Therefore it must be done by cutting down excess Government expenditure.

We must consider the standing of the Crown in this nation and the contemptuous and organised campaign against Sir John Kerr for his action in sacking the Labor Government, which he was entitled to do. The Governor in the State and the Governor-General in the Commonwealth have never been figure-heads. True they are most reluctant to use the authority vested in them. But when Prime Minister Whitlam said that

he did not intend to resign come hell or high water, no matter how the economy went, and that he would not consider a double dissolution, the Governor-General was left with no option but to dissolve both Houses.

Had he called his shots by summoning Mr. Whitlam to the Lodge and telling him, "If you do not do this, I will give you the sack", the Governor-General's cards would have been counted; he would have been sacked and someone else would have been appointed. He just could not play that sort of game at that time. The course he took has seldom been used by either a Governor-General or the Monarch. But one day, if it is necessary, the Queen will use that very power in the House of Commons or the House of Lords if the same type of impasse arises.

What grieves me is that a person of the calibre of Sir John Kerr, a Labor appointee and a person who invariably behaves with absolute dignity, is being harassed by groups organised by the Labor Party. The Labor Party previously stated that its policy was continued harassment of Sir John simply because of a move that was vindicated by the vote of the people of Australia, who threw out the Labor Government lock, stock and barrel. That vote proved the Governor-General to be right.

The Labor Party is not prepared to accept the people's decision. It is true that we were not happy about some decisions when the A.L.P. was in office and when we had a majority in the Senate and used our good offices quite legally to do what we did. The A.L.P. is now harassing the Governor-General. He can stand it, but my sympathy goes to his wife for the booing and other forms of demonstration that they have had to contend with.

The Westminster system under which this country operates has a great history of achievement. Great Britain, the home of the Westminster system, does not have a constitution and apparently does not need one. The common law has evolved from judgment after judgment, legislation and forethought, and precedent upon precedent, and that country is run without a written constitution and without corruption. It has been a most stable form of government in both Labor and Conservative hands. There has not been a Government in Britain under the Westminster system virtually since Magna Charta that has not been at least fairly responsible.

It would be a shame if the A.L.P. does not change its policy because one day it will again obtain the reins of office in the Commonwealth sphere and I would not like to think that because of something written in its platform it departed from the Westminster system. It has, after all, many things in its platform that it does not implement. I should like to see the A.L.P. amend its platform so that retention of the Westminster system becomes part of it.

It has never been my contention that everything the Labor Party did was wrong or that everything our parties have done has

been right. We do, however, have a tried and proven system as opposed to a republic, with its Watergates and corruption. We have a system, with a Lower House and an Upper House, and it has worked well. Unfortunately at the moment Queensland does not have an Upper House, but I hope that before long the Government will give consideration to its re-establishment. We, too, would then have a House of review. Legislation would be publicly debated here and it would then go to the other House for further consideration. If amendments were necessary the Black Rod would tap on the door and return legislation on which the Upper House had said, "We have decided this needs amendment."

There is great advantage in having members appointed to an Upper House. Many people feel that the members of an Upper House must be elected by general franchise on the Hare-Clark system or some other system of proportional representation. I suggest that with appointees we would have a balanced team, with one from the trade union movement, one an expert on native culture, one from the manufacturing sector and so on, so that we would have an expert on practically every subject. That would mean not only having an Upper House as a House of review but an Upper House composed of experts, which would be of advantage to Queensland. In addition to that, an Upper House would prevent the very things that we and the A.L.P. are criticised for when in office, such as gerrymanders and the hurrying through of legislation in one night.

An Honourable Member: If you had an expert House, you wouldn't get any people from the A.L.P. in it.

Mr. MOORE: We would try to work something out along those lines. We could probably put a few Liberals in to look after their interests. Something like that would be fair enough.

Mr. Houston: What were you saying before about riding a camel?

Mr. MOORE: The honourable member is not here, so I cannot go on talking about camels.

While he has been a member of this House the Premier has been a reformer. He has been a fellow prepared to do something for the first time. The honourable member for Townsville referred to death duties and said that, even though it was our policy, we were attempting to say, "Not yet; not yet." The Premier said, "Do it now or it will never be done." The Premier is getting on in years and we all know he cannot remain here for ever. He will probably remain for another couple of terms, and I hope that before he departs he puts in train legislation to reintroduce an Upper House in Queensland as a safeguard for us when we are in Opposition and a safeguard for the Labor Party when it is in Opposition.

Mr. Houston: It is only required under your Government.

Mr. MOORE: I realise that, because honourable members opposite operate under Rafferty's rules and we do not. They also have to suffer the heavy hand placed on them, which we do not.

Mr. Houston: At least we allow Ministers to run their own departments.

Mr. MOORE: I beg your pardon?

Mr. Houston: We cannot sack our Ministers from their own departments.

Mr. MOORE: In reply to the honourable member's interjection, when the A.L.P. was in power Labor Attorney-Generals simply stood over magistrates. A tougher lot could not be found and rough justice was the order of the day.

Mr. Lamont: When the last A.L.P. Government was in power, nine or 10 Ministers were sacked and Duggan was the only one left standing.

Mr. MOORE: Yes, and he wrote in a few provisos that put them out of office for ever. When we think about the Westminster system, we realise that Australia is a relatively young country. It has adopted the tried and true Westminster system which has worked well up till now, and I see no reason why it should be changed. As I said earlier, I appeal to the A.L.P. to throw out of its platform that section relating to the Westminster system. We do not want to have all sorts of stresses placed on the nation simply to get rid of a Government because it has something like that in its platform.

I should like to make one or two criticisms of the attitude of the Federal Government to the States. For about 75 years, of course, Australia has been a Federation. When legislation has been passed in this House and the Federal House passes counterpart legislation, the Federal legislation takes precedence over the State enactment. Therefore, the more legislation of that type which is passed in the Federal House, the more the authority of the States is being whittled away.

As I said during the debate on the Appropriation Bill, the State receives about 33 per cent of the total tax revenue and the Commonwealth retains about 66 per cent, and I think that those percentages ought to be reversed.

There are some disadvantages in Federation because there is a tendency towards uniformity throughout the States, and uniformity for uniformity's sake leaves much to be desired. I am well aware that there were disadvantages, too, when each State was a separate colony—there were problems of co-ordination, communication, defence, customs and so on—but there was a diversity of views; whereas now we are being plagued by the Federal Government and other State Governments reaching agreement on uniformity, and uniformity can prevent many original views being brought forward. State rights are being lost every month simply because of the passing of Commonwealth legislation, and it is a shame that that is

happening. People do not realise that it is happening, but it is, and Queensland's power and authority is being whittled away because this State has to comply with the wishes of the larger States, which have the numbers in the Federal Parliament and organise it that way.

There has certainly been quite a lot of criticism of Queensland by southern States. They refer to Queensland as the "Deep North". However, I commend the Premier for his stand in encouraging the establishment of new industries here. As leader of the coalition Government and as its spokesman, it is only natural that he will receive credit for something that has been thought of by this or that Cabinet Minister or by some back-bench member, and when I speak of the Premier I really speak of the coalition. As its spokesman, he is doing a very good job for this State.

I say "Thanks very much" to him for the stand he is taking on the question of the Torres Strait islands and the boundary between Queensland and New Guinea, or Australia and New Guinea. I have been to most of the islands in Torres Strait and heard the Islanders say that they are not seagulls; that they are not prepared to give one grain of sand or one cup of water to New Guinea. They were there 700 years ago, and they were never part of New Guinea and never part of Australia. But since the coming of the light about 100 years ago, when the London Missionary Society and the Church of England took them over, they have all been good Christians. They say that they were born under the flag and wish to remain under the flag; that they are Queenslanders and Australians and wish to remain Queenslanders and Australians. There is no way that any Commonwealth Government should be giving Queenslanders away to a foreign nation. If we give away islands such as Boigu, Saibai and Mabuiag, we are giving away the only channel through which our shipping can pass. It would then have to go through foreign waters.

I have never seen an instance in which there is an advantage in giving something away. I can recall a former Prime Minister of Great Britain, Harold Macmillan, saying, "Oh, well, we have the winds of change." He gave away what Great Britain stood for. On the other hand Churchill said that he would not chair any meeting that was going to give away the British Empire in a few short years. When I was a child the sun didn't set on the British Empire, but now Great Britain is in the same situation as Finland. It has become a second-rate nation in my lifetime. I could never imagine that happening when I was a kid singing, "Britons never, never, never shall be slaves" and "Rule Britannia". Look at the state she is in now! One gets nowhere by giving ground. I thank the Premier for the stand he has taken and the guts he has shown.

Mr. Lamont: That is what happens when a socialist Government is elected twice in a row.

Mr. MOORE: In all the time we have had Governments in Australia the A.L.P. has not been in office very long. Their proud record before the last lot was that they were the only crowd to reduce the age pension.

They had the audacity to reduce the age pension by 2s. 6d. when pensioners were receiving less than £2 a week. That shows Labor's attitude.

I should like to say a few words about the trade union movement and its stand-over tactics. When there is a real confrontation we see industry and Governments surrendering to the power of the trade union movement. When one industry stands up for itself its competitors take advantage of the situation to try to gain some ground. The trade union movement is the toughest boss that one could have. Anyone who has had anything to do with that movement, as I have, would know that its rules are disobeyed at one's peril. If a person goes to work after a union has decided, with or without a ballot, to hold a strike the union is very tough on that individual. It will be organised that others will not work with him later, or else pressure is brought to bear on the boss to have him dismissed.

The unions talk about the toughness and cold-heartedness of Governments, but there is nothing tougher or more cold-hearted than the trade union movement. Why do all trade unionists come to heel? Why do they allegedly vote unanimously? Because they are dead scared of what the trade union movement will do to them. On one occasion I stood up against the trade union movement, and got a smack on the jaw for it.

On another occasion I was hit with a couple of oranges. Generally speaking, if a person bucks the trade union movement he is out. That is something we have to look at. A union will declare a person black, irrespective of his colour. From then on no-one will work with him, and he is out.

One situation in the trade union movement that needs some improvement is the system of wage justice. I do not believe that the lower-paid trade-unionists get a fair go at all. If the lower-paid group gets a wage rise, the reasonably well-paid unionists say, "You've closed on our margin and we need a further rise." I would like to see the whole of the trade union movement—all the unions and their representatives—get together and decide what the margins should be. I do not care how much the margins are, but such a scheme would enable all sections to know automatically what they will be paid when one section of the trade union movement is given an increase in wages. The margins could be reviewed every three years or so. Whenever the Industrial Commission decides what amounts should be paid by way of margins, dissension is created. The trade unions are not prepared to accept the decision of the commission. The only decision they would accept is their own, so I say let the trade unions, not the Industrial Commission, determine what the margins shall be.

In one of my earlier speeches I spoke about the use of a points index to determine wage adjustments. I suggested that points could be allocated for skill, the difficulty of the work, exposure to obnoxious gases, brain fag and so on. A points index could be used to arrive at an equitable wage. But now I have come to the conclusion that the smartest thing to do to maintain industrial harmony would be to allow the trade-unionists themselves to set up a committee to decide what the margins should be.

Into this pot-pourri I bring the toll of the road. The leading article in a recent issue of "The Courier-Mail" stated that the situation had improved. In 1972-73, road accidents totalled 29,899; road fatalities numbered 625 and the number of persons injured was 10,903. In 1973-74, there were 30,486 accidents, 603 road fatalities and 11,279 persons injured. In 1974-75, there were 29,829 accidents, 583 fatalities and 10,839 persons injured. Of the injured persons a great many would be permanently disabled and therefore a burden on the community. In looking at the accident figures we must bear in mind not only the number of persons killed but also the number of persons injured and the types of injury sustained.

If these figures were applied to the number of men killed and wounded in Vietnam or in any other war we would be crying out, "Pull out the troops," but when they are road toll statistics they are accepted by everyone.

There is no doubt in my mind that the one common factor in all traffic accidents is speed. I will preach this until it is accepted. Accidents are caused by a combination of inattention and speed, carelessness and speed, mechanical failure and speed, a fellow giving his girlfriend a cuddle while driving at speed, colliding head-on at speed or hitting a tree at speed. Of course, some people claim that the tree hits the motor vehicle.

I have asked the Minister for Transport to give serious consideration to the governing of motor vehicles on the wheel speed or on the speedometer itself. It is possible to bring the governor into operation when the speedometer reaches a certain speed. If the Minister is not prepared to have the speed of motor vehicles governed by an electronic device, which is quite simple to do, he could govern the top speed of vehicles to, say, 5 kmh in excess of the speed limit.

When a motorist is driving along at 100 kmh and a car speeds past making him feel that his car is stationary, he wonders whether it will crash or miraculously continue to hold the road. We have introduced legislation on seat belts, a points system, breathalyser tests, alcotests and so on but comparatively speaking the road toll has not been reduced. When it is remembered that each year 500 people are killed and 10,000 are injured it is obvious that something has to be done.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Ahern, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 9.47 p.m.